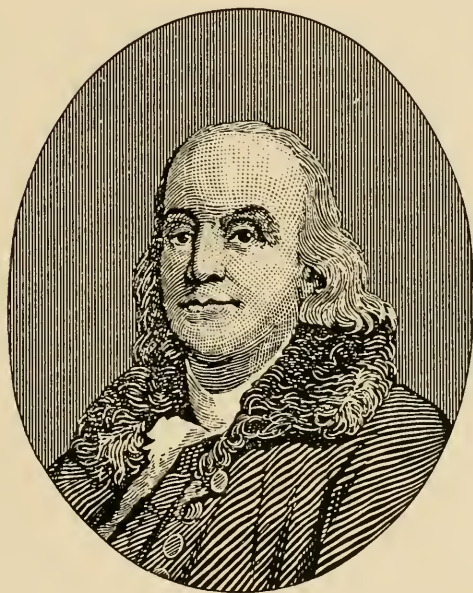


E
302
.6
F8F84



Franklin Business association, Franklin, Mass.

**Two Hundredth Anniversary
of the Birth of
Benjamin Franklin.**



·1706·

·1906·

Franklin, Massachusetts.

E 302
6
F2 F84

Poor Richard, 1733.

A N

Almanack

For the Year of Christ

1 7 3 3,

Being the First after I EAP YEAR:

<i>And makes since the Creation</i>	Years
By the Account of the E Stern Greeks	7241
By the Latin Church, when Q ent r	6932
By the Computation of W W	5742
By the Roman Chronology	5682
By the Jewish Rabbits	5494

Wherein is contained

The Lunations, Eclipses, Judgment of the Weather, Spring Tides, Planets Motions & mutual Aspects, Sun and Moon's Rising and Setting, Length of Days, Time of High Water, Tides, Courts, and observable Days

Fitted to the Latitude of Forty Degrees, and a Meridian of Five Hours West from London, but may without sensible Error serve all the adjacent Places, even from Newfoundland to South-Carolina.

By RICHARD SAUNDERS, Philom.

PHILADELPHIA:
Printed and sold by B FRANKLIN, at the New
Printing Office near the Market

The Third Impression.

FACSIMILE OF THE COVER OF "POOR RICHARD'S ALMANACK."

Bicentenary of
Benjamin Franklin's Birth
January Seventeen
Nineteen Hundred and Six

Under the Auspices
Franklin Business Association
Franklin, Massachusetts

THE
SENTINEL PRESS
FRANKLIN.

Gift
Publish
31Ja '07

2
1
1
1
1

The Many-Sided Franklin

Mechanic

Designer

Engraver

Printer

Editor

Journalist

Author

Publisher

Essayist

Moralist

Philosopher

Poet

Trader

Farmer

Soldier

Musician

Athlete

Reformer

Financier

Statesman

Diplomat

Scientist

Inventor

Society Man

Wit and

Philanthropist



FRANKLIN AT THE COURT OF FRANCE

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS.

Date	Age	Events
1706		Is born in Boston, Jan. 17 (Jan. 6, old style,) the 10th child of Josiah and Abiah (Folger) Franklin.
1714	8	Sent to school.
1716	10	Taken out of school to assist his father in his tallow-chandler's shop.
1718	12	Becomes an apprentice in the printing office of his brother.
1720	14	Anonymously contributed literary articles to the New England Courant.
1723	17	Runs away to Philadelphia.
1724	18	Goes to London.
1725	19	Works at his trade in London.
1726	20	Returns to Philadelphia to work in dry goods store.
1727	21	Is ill. Composes his epitaph. Organizes a literary club called the Junto.
1729	23	Publishes the Pennsylvania Gazette.
1730	24	Marries Deborah Reed (Rogers,) Sept. 1.
1732	26	Founds the Philadelphia library, the first circulating library in the country. Begins publication of Poor Richard's Almanac, continued for 25 years.
1733	27	Begins the study of French, Italian and Spanish.
1736	30	Enters public life as clerk of the Pennsylvania assembly.
1737	31	Is appointed postmaster of Philadelphia. Organizes the first fire department in America.
1742	36	Invents the first stove successfully used in this country.
1744	38	Organized a scientific society which became the American-Philosophical society and subsequently the American Academy of Sciences.
1749	43	Founds the Pennsylvania academy, which becomes the University of Pennsylvania.
1752	46	Proves that electricity is an element, by receiving the discharge of lightning on a kite string.
1753	47	Is appointed to office of deputy postmaster general of the colonies, and begins the foundation of

6 *The Benjamin Franklin Celebration*

- our present postal system. Harvard college confers on him the degree of B. A.
- 1754 48 Commissioner from Pennsylvania at the Congress in Albany and submitted a plan for a union of all the colonies under one government.
- 1755 49 Procures wagons and supplies from the people for Braddock's expedition against the French at Fort Duquesne (Pittsburg). Leads in defence of Pennsylvania against the Indians.
- 1757 51 Is sent to London as the agent of Pennsylvania.
- 1762 56 Received the degree of LL. D. from the University of Oxford, St. Andrews and Edinburgh. Returns to Philadelphia and plans a life of study and useful leisure.
- 1763 57 Travels 1,600 miles extending and regulating the postal system.
- 1764 58 Is again sent to London as colonial agent for Pennsylvania.
- 1766 60 Gives important testimony on Stamp Act before House of Commons.
- 1770 64 Is appointed agent for Massachusetts in England.
- 1775 69 Received the Copley Gold Medal. Returns from 11 years' stay in England to participate in the decisive steps toward American independence.
- 1776 70 Is elected to the Committee of Five to frame a Declaration of Independence. Is appointed commissioner to secure the support of France.
- 1778 72 Secures a treaty of alliance with France; is formally received at the French court as minister of the United States.
- 1781 75 Is appointed member of a commission to negotiate a treaty of peace.
- 1782 76 Signed preliminary articles of peace at Paris Nov. 30.
- 1783 77 Signed definite articles of peace at Paris Sept. 3.
- 1785 79 Returns to his home in Philadelphia. Is elected president of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Presents library to Town of Franklin.
- 1786 80 Is re-elected.
- 1787 81 Again re-elected. Helps frame the constitution of the United States.
- 1790 84 Dies at his home in Philadelphia. Buried in Christ Church graveyard in that city.

POOR RICHARD'S MAXIMS.

Sloth, like rust, consumes faster than labor wears, while the
used key is always bright.

The sleeping fox catches no poultry.

Drive thy business; let not thy business drive thee.

Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and
wise.

There are no gains without pains.

He that hath a calling hath an office of profit and honor.

Diligence is the mother of good luck.

One today is worth two tomorrows.

Handle your tools without mittens. Remember, the cat in
gloves catches no mice.

Constant dropping wears away stones.

Little strokes fell great oaks.

Trouble springs from idleness.

Three removes are as bad as a fire.

Keep thy shop and thy shop will keep thee.

Many a little makes a mickle; a small leak will sink a great
ship.

Buy what thou hast no need of and ere long thou shalt sell thy
necessaries.

Silks and satins, scarlet and velvet, put out the kitchen fire.

Always taking out of the meal tub and never putting in soon
comes to the bottom.

It is hard for an empty sack to stand upright.

Lazy folks take the most pains.

God gives all things to industry.

Plow deep while sluggards sleep and you will have corn to sell
and to keep.

If you would have your business done, go; if not, send.

FRANKLIN'S RULES OF CONDUCT.

At the age of 22 Franklin drew up for his own guidance a set of precepts, in which he gave a prominent place to humility and chastity. The others were :

TEMPERANCE.

Eat not to dullness ; drink not to elevation.

SILENCE.

Speak not but what may benefit others or yourself ; avoid trifling conversation.

ORDER.

Let all your things have their places ; let each part of your business have its time.

RESOLUTION.

Resolve to perform what you ought ; perform without fail what you resolve.

FRUGALITY.

Make no expense but to do good to others or yourself ; i e, waste nothing.

INDUSTRY.

Lose no time ; be always employed in something useful ; cut off all unnecessary actions.

SINCERITY.

Use no hurtful deceit ; think innocently and justly ; and, if you speak, speak accordingly.

JUSTICE.

Wrong none by doing injuries, or omitting the benefits that are your duty.

MODERATION.

Avoid extremes ; forbear resenting injuries so much as you think they deserve.

CLEANLINESS.

Tolerate no uncleanness in body, clothes or habitation.

BICENTENARY COMMITTEES.

RECEPTION

HORACE W. HOSIE	BRADLEY M. ROCKWOOD
GEORGE F. S. SINGLETON	BERNARD W. MCCABE
FRED P. CHAPMAN	WALTER A. CLARK
CHARLES A. R. RAY	NATHAN C. NYE
MICHAEL J. COSTELLO	JOSEPH G. BOURBEAU
HERBERT W. THAYER	WALTER M. FISHER
GEORGE R. WINSOR	JEROME B. FITZPATRICK
METCALF E. POND	

FINANCE

HARRY T. HAYWARD	LEROY W. STOTT
GEORGE F. S. SINGLETON	GEORGE E. DUFFY
JEREMIAH J. MCCARTHY	FRED H. BARTHOLOMEW
JACOB F. GEB	

LIBRARY

ARTHUR W. PEIRCE	JOSEPH G. RAY
ADELBERT D. THAYER	HORACE W. HOSIE
CHARLES A. R. RAY	BRADLEY M. ROCKWOOD

SPEAKERS AND ENTERTAINMENT

HENRY E. RUGGLES	ORESTES T. DOE
ARTHUR W. PEIRCE	ADDISON M. THAYER
WILLIAM F. RAY	WILLIAM S. JOHNSON
WALTER C. SHERMAN	

PRINTING AND SOUVENIRS

PALMER A. WOODWARD	JOSEPH P. BASSETT
ALLAN RAMSAY	CARL B. JOHNSON

PUBLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATION

FRED P. CHAPMAN	AMBROSE J. GALLISON
IRVING H. GAMWELL	

DECORATION

E. BERTRAM SHERMAN	FRANCIS H. APPLETON, JR.
MARSTON SANBORN	EDWARD S. COOK
JOHN A. GEB	

EXECUTIVE

HENRY E. RUGGLES	JEREMIAH J. MCCARTHY
WILLIAM F. RAY	HORACE W. HOSIE
HARRY T. HAYWARD	GEORGE F. S. SINGLETON



LIBRARY PRESENTED TO THE TOWN BY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN IN 1785.

"A town in Massachusetts has done me the honor of naming itself after me, and proposing to build a steeple to their meeting house if I would give them a bell. I have advised the sparing themselves the expense of a steeple for the present, and that they would accept of books instead of a bell—sense being preferable to sound. These are intended as the commencement of a little parochial library for the use of a society of intelligent, respectable farmers, such as our country people generally consist of." (Letter from Benjamin Franklin to Dr. Price in reference to the gift.)

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Arranged by the Franklin Business
Association, Morse Opera House,
Franklin, Mass., Wednesday Even-
ing, January Seventeen, Nineteen
Hundred and Six.

PROGRAM

MARCH—"Father of Victory" *Ganne*

JAPANESE SERENADE—"Poppies" *Moret*

POPULAR MEDLEY—"Starlight" *Morse*

ADDRESS OF WELCOME—

Judge H. E. Ruggles, President of Association

ADDRESS—

Lieut.-Gov. Eben S. Draper, representing the
Commonwealth

XYLOPHONE SOLO— *Swain*

Mr. Berton

ADDRESS—

Ex-Gov. John L. Bates, "Boston the Birthplace
of Benjamin Franklin"

OPERA—"Ermine" *Jakobowski*

ADDRESS—

Prof. Arthur W. Peirce, "Franklin and the
Franklin Library"

ORIGINAL POEM—

Miss Maude L. Ray

ENTRE ACTE—"Happy Heinie" *Lampe*

ADDRESS—

Leon H. Vincent, "Franklin as a Man of
Letters"

Concert by Poole's Boston Orchestra from 7 30 to 8 o'clock.

A Few Facts
Relating to the
Town of Franklin

Its Past, Present and Future



FRANKLIN is centrally located on high, level land, 27 miles from Boston, on the main line of the Midland Division, of the N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R., with branches in one direction 20 miles to Providence, and the other connecting with the N. Y. Central R. R.

The Milford, Attleboro, Franklin and Woonsocket and the Norfolk Western electric lines give frequent communications between these centers and also between Franklin and Boston and the smaller surrounding towns. The former company owns Hoag Lake where it



maintains free pleasure grounds with numerous attractions. This line also runs to Lake Pearl and Archer's Lake, two of the most picturesque lakes in New England, which give the public attractive outing places for a five cent fare.



Franklin is a thriving, energetic, modern town, with all the recent advances in the line of superior schools, good streets and roads, electric lights and sewerage system,

well kept sidewalks, free local and rural mail facilities, abundant water supply and beautiful lawns; keenly alive to all that is progressive and desirable in residential and industrial directions.

The town of Franklin was set off from Wrentham in 1778 by a legislative act incorporating the westerly part of the town





of Wrentham in the (then) county of Suffolk, into a town by the name of Franklin. The name originally selected for the town was Exeter, and the bill incorporating it un-

der that name passed two readings in the Legislature, when it was changed to Franklin, though the records fail to show by whom the change was made or under what authorization. Since that time it has gradually passed through that period of transi-

tion from the typical New England village with its proneness to quiet and comfortable ease, its conservatism and quality. While from a mercantile point of view Franklin has super-



ior advantages, yet as a residential town it has few equals in the state. It is rapidly becoming favorably known as a summer resort, its proximity to the beautiful lakes making it a most desirable place to spend the heated term: attracting many

visitors and guests from the large cities of the east and west, who find here an ideal place for recreation, pleasure and rest.



Perhaps no historic figure stands out more distinctly in the annals of New England churches than the famous divine, Dr. Nathaniel Emmons, and the town is full of anecdotes and reminiscences of his day and generation.

For sixty-seven years he ministered to this people, and his sermons are models of concise reasoning and logic. He dressed in quaint fashion; short in stature, with narrow, smooth face. He left an impress upon all who came in touch with him equalled by few men of his generation.

Another distinguished son of Franklin whose name has gone abroad in many lands is Rev. Wm. Makepeace Thayer, a successful and prolific writer, a master of terse, vigorous English. His many books tend to make the men to have commanded thoughtful minds, into many languages in thousands of and read by all



tinguished son of name has gone abroad in many lands is Rev. Wm. Thayer, a successful and prolific writer, a vigorous English. His many books tend to make the men to have commanded thoughtful minds, into many languages in thousands of and read by all



Dr. Oliver Dean, founder of Dean Academy, demands recognition among Franklin's famous men. Possessed of ample means he devoted the latter portion of his life to the education of youth, and the beautiful Dean Academy is today a monument to his generosity and foresight. The building is of the Gothic style, and architecturally very graceful, its beautiful tower being a landmark for miles around. It has accommodations for over 100 resident pupils, with school rooms, and

16 *The Benjamin Franklin Celebration*

a fine gymnasium of ample proportions. Franklin is justly proud of Dean Academy, and the memory of Dr. Dean is cher-



ished with reverence and love. Dr. Dean gave to the school by gift and by his will over a quarter of a million dollars.

Franklin is especially proud of its record of famous sons, enjoying as it does the enviable distinction of being the birthplace of one of the world's most famous educators, Horace Mann, in whose honor our High school was named. He was elected to Congress to fill the place made vacant by the death of John Quincy Adams, being in the House at the period of the hottest slavery agitation. He declined the nomination for the governorship of Massachusetts to become the president of an obscure western college, obedient to an ideal.



Ever closely linked with the material prosperity of this town will be the names of the "Rays of Franklin," synonymous with enterprise, business, daring, wonderful financial

management and foresight. From humble beginnings in 1839, without capital or influence, they steadily increased in wealth and business enterprises until their fame and influence extended far and wide. To Francis



B., James P. and Joseph G. Ray is largely due the upbuilding and continued prosperity of Franklin. In this connection should be mentioned the late Hon. William F. Ray, whose sudden death in 1898 was a severe blow to the town. Possessed of remarkable energy and capacity as a manufacturer, a suavity



of manner which won him friends everywhere, a distinguished future was certainly before him.

A prominent factor for many years in the industrial life of the town was the Thayer family, Major and Davis Thayer, Jr., and Emery Thayer, all of whom left their impress upon this



town in a marked and helpful degree, being pioneers in the straw business, and making Franklin among the first few towns in this country to embark in an enterprise of this nature.

Among other men now passed and gone whose

18 *The Benjamin Franklin Celebration*

names have been connected with the industrial and social life of Franklin, are A. Hartwell Morse, Edwin Trowbridge, Charles J. McKenzie, Daniel C. Cotton, A. A. Russegue, Chas. W. Stewart, Jas. M. Freeman, J. C. Gallison and the Whitings, Fishers, Nasons, Metcalfs Ponds, Greenes, Daniels and others.

This beautiful Soldiers' Monument

was presented to the town by Frederick
A t w o o d
N e w e l l ,

now of Attleboro, who was a native of Franklin. At the dedication of the monument, Mr. Newell was introduced in the following words: "Those of us who have followed Mr. Newell from boyhood, and know of his career in the war, and later of his many deeds of kindness to old friends quietly done, are not surprised even in the stress of his busy life that he should remember his native town in this beautiful and lasting way."



METHODIST CHURCH

The substantial brick and stone St. Mary's Building is one of the most attractive public buildings in Franklin. It was built to answer all the requirements of the Catholic Parish and contains a large auditorium which is used for church purposes, a well equipped gymnasium with basket ball court, recreation and reading rooms, etc. The building occupies a slightly location, near the head of the Common.





The Franklin Business Association, under whose auspices this celebration was arranged, was organized in 1898. The late Joseph G. Ray was its first President and always took an active part in its affairs.

The objects are to encourage the growth and advance the business prosperity of the town, also to promote personal and social acquaintance among its members.



The rooms are well lighted, commodious and comfortable, thereby offering a very congenial meeting place at all times for its members, which now number 120.

Some of the substantial industries of the town have been induced to locate here through the efforts of the association, among the recent ones being the Golling Mfg. Co. of Boston.

SOME OF FRANKLIN'S INDUSTRIES



FRANKLIN is established upon a firm business foundation. Capital and labor sustain pleasant relations. Labor troubles are unknown. A great many of the operatives own comfortable homes. It has a National Bank with a surplus of over



one hundred thousand dollars, in existence since 1865, and a thriving Savings and Co-Operative Bank.



One factor of growth is the diversity of industries. Towns which have but one source of employment for their wage earners suffer periodically seasons of

depression, panics, strikes or business mismanagement, entailing wholesale disaster in communities of limited activities.



It is universally conceded that the life of a place depends up-

on its manufacturers. No town can be designated as "alive" that does not have in its midst factories, mills and shops, busy

with the hum of industry, the active energy of mechanics, artisans, operatives, etc. Agriculture may



serve its place in the industrial life of a community, but a distinctively agricultural place is never "alive." Ever since the



Pilgrim Fathers disputed with the red skinned aborigines

the right to occupy and populate this section, from that moment manufacturing has grown apace, and nothing is more re-

markable than the tenacity with which manufacturing has held its



own in competition with other branches of industry. No vil-

22 *The Benjamin Franklin Celebration*

lage ever grew to be a town except as manufacturing called in-
to it many of the operatives who should tend the busy spindles,



the whirring wheels, the heavy mechanism of the machine shop
or the delicate mechanism of the watch factory, the saw and
plane of the lumber and wood turning establishment. Therefore to the
inventive genius, skill, industry and sobriety of its art-
isans and mechanics, a place is in-
debted for its wealth and prosperity. Franklin industries are
many and varied, among them being Woolen, Worsted, Yarn,



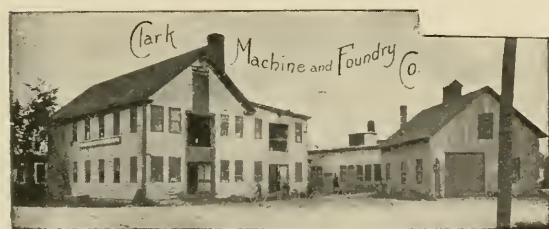
Felt, Blanket, Towel, Shoddy and Wool Substitute Mills, Print-
ing Press Works, Piano Manufactory, Box Factory, Rubber

Works, Straw Hat Factory, Iron Foundry, Machine Shop, Leather Finding Factory, Bobbin Holder Factory and Wagon Manufactory.

Having all these modern advantages, together with excellent

shipping facilities, (being the largest shipping point on the Midland Division in the state), low freight rates and low

rate of taxation Franklin is a most desirable residential town as well



as a superior commercial and manufacturing centre.

Taken altogether few towns possess advantages superior to Franklin, in places of historic interest, in natural resources, etc. Therefore, with

justifiable pride the residents of Franklin, while rejoicing over its past, look

hopefully and confidently into the future for even a greater degree of prosperity, both material and essential.



GOLDING MFG. CO.



COURTESY OF BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Benjamin Franklin

From the painting by Joseph Sifrede Duplessis in the Boston Public Library

THE BOOK AND ITS PURPOSE.

The Celebration by the Town of Franklin of the 200th anniversary of the birth of its namesake, Benjamin Franklin, of which this little book is a permanent record and the preceeding pages a reproduction of the artistic souvenir program, was a result of the wise provision and efficient administration of the Franklin Business Association. It has seemed wise and fitting that the story of so interesting an occasion, and especially the able addresses given, should be preserved in some permanent form, and this book is printed not only as a memorial of the day for those who participated in the occasion, but that succeeding generations may by reading of this celebration themselves honor the man whose name the town bears and whose character and whose generosity in the founding of our Library merit the abiding esteem of our citizens.

The story of the Celebration, largely taken from the columns of the *Franklin Sentinel*, together with the addresses given at the evening meeting, will be found in the following pages.

THE EVENTS OF THE DAY.



JANUARY 17th, 1906, will ever remain a memorable day in the annals of Franklin and its Business Association, whose energetic efforts and generosity made possible the commemoration of the two hundredth birthday anniversary of Benjamin Franklin, in whose honor the town was named.

While it might have seemed more fitting that the celebration should have been undertaken and carried out under municipal auspices, yet there was no way in which this could legally be done, involving, as it must, the expenditure of monies on the part of the town. Therefore, when the matter was broached to the Association, it at once met with a ready response, and at the meeting held on the 16th of November, just two months before the celebration, the various committees were appointed which should have charge of and be responsible for the success of the affair.

The question of expense did not at that time come up, but at a later meeting it was found that the members very generally desired to contribute, some of them very generously indeed. From that time on there was not the slightest doubt but that the affair was going to be one of the most memorable ever held in the town, as subsequent events proved.

Many meetings were held, and at each meeting substantial progress was reported, and what is somewhat unusual in such matters, there was not the slightest friction or dissension regarding details or plans of work. Each committee went ahead according to its best judgment, and the result amply justified the confidence imposed in the personele of each committee.

As time went it became apparent that to make the affair a success it should be the idea of a merely local affair should be discarded, and

accordingly the effort was made to procure some of the best talent in the state. That this entertainment committee succeeded in that respect all who attended the exercises on Wednesday evening in the Opera House will abundantly testify.

The Commonwealth was splendidly represented in the persons of the present lieutenant governor, His Honor, Eben S. Draper of Hopedale, and also a former governor, John L. Bates, both of whom held the closest attention of their audience throughout their entire remarks.

Locally the field was finely covered by Prof. Arthur W. Peirce, principal of Dean Academy, whose connection with the Ray Memorial Library, the present and future home of the Benjamin Franklin Library, is manifestly close, and Miss Maude L. Ray, a daughter of Franklin, whose literary ability and grace of manner easily make her the most fitting person to prepare the poem which should be handed down to posterity in connection with this most successful celebration. And lastly it would seem that the committee could not have secured a more capable speaker on the literary side of Benjamin Franklin than the talented lecturer, L. H. Vincent. The lecture was in this popular speaker's happiest vein. It scintillated with humor, a smile running through the audience continually, and at the same time it was keenly analytical, besides showing vast research among Franklin's writings.

While the claim of Franklin to especial honor does not rest alone upon the fact that it was the first town in the United States to take upon itself the name of that man who admittedly stands next to the immortal Washington in shaping the affairs of this nation, nor upon the fact that without question Franklin possessed the first town Public Library in the United States, a nucleus of which was here some thirty years before the gift of books from Benjamin Franklin, yet it points with justifiable pride to the fact that few if any towns in New England are richer in historical interest as the birthplace of individ-

nals whose name and fame have extended far beyond our borders and even across the sea, vide Horace Mann, the educator of world-wide fame; Dr. Nathaniel Emmons, one of New England's foremost divines, and Rev. William Makepeace Thayer, author, preacher and temperance reformer.

On Wednesday forenoon appropriate exercises were held in all the schools, where the children read and recited selections, and made drawings concerning the life of Franklin, visiting clergymen also exhorting the pupils to emulate America's great commoner, as follows :

Four Corners School, 9 A. M., Rev. F. A. Everett.

Brick School, 10.15 A. M., Rev. F. A. Everett.

Horace Mann School, Eighth grades, 8.30 A. M., Ninth grade and High, 9 A. M., Judge Henry E. Ruggles.

Nason Street School, 10.30 A. M., Rev. R. K. Marvin. These exercises were held in the Horace Mann building.

W. M. Thayer School, 9 A. M., Rev. John Reid.

Unionville School, 9.40 A. M., Rev. J. F. Russell.

Town House School, 11 A. M., Rev. J. F. Russell.

Arlington Street School, Rev. Guy W. Miner.

In addition to these exercises a most interesting and instructive lecture on "The Life and Public Services of Franklin" was given before the students of the schools of the town by Rev. Henry R. Rose of Newark, N. J. Pupils of the Horace Mann School and of Dean Academy enjoyed the lecture on the Monday evening before the celebration at the Dean Academy Chapel, and the pupils of the other schools at the Morse Opera House the afternoon before.

Business was entirely suspended during the afternoon, most of the blocks being finely decorated, among them being the Fletcher building, Hotel Windsor, the small Ray building, Green's market, the Dana block, Metcalf's block, Searle's barber shop, Peck's store, Cataldo's building, Richardson's market, Farrington's store, Morse

block and the Opera House block. Mr. Singleton's residence was also handsomely decorated. Many flags about town were also displayed. The decoration of the Post Office building was especially elaborate.

During the afternoon the reception in the Business Men's rooms and the opening of the Children's Library in the Ray Memorial building attracted hundreds. A larger crowd of happy children never assembled than those in the Library, and the librarian, Mrs. Hurd, was kept extremely busy. The fine display of Frankliniana held the interest of many, who hope to spend more time upon it later.

The many visitors at the Business Men's rooms expressed surprise at the handsome appointments. Florist Slade had decorated the place lavishly with cut flowers and potted plants, and the New England Decorating company had hung bunting and flags most artistically. Over two hundred guests registered in the guests' book in the reading room, where the many letters from distinguished personages were displayed, prominent among them being one from President Roosevelt. In Odd Fellows' Hall the Manola orchestra discoursed excellent music, punch and fancy crackers were served, and social chat and dancing were enjoyed. The Woonsocket Business Men's quartette furnished pleasing vocal selections.

At the exercises in the Opera House in the evening admission was by ticket entirely, and practically every seat was taken, together with the nearly one hundred extra sittings provided. The interior of the place had been literally transformed with bunting, pictures, and flowers from the Slade greenhouse, palms, ferns, callas and geraniums predominating. A large picture of Franklin was hung above the stage, with the seal of the state upon the left and "E Pluribus Unum" upon the right. Large pictures of Washington and Roosevelt were upon either side, providing a most artistic decorative effect. Poole's Orchestra of Boston, ten pieces, discoursed delightful music during the exercises. (See program, page 7).

THE ADDRESSES OF THE EVENING.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME—JUDGE HENRY E. RUGGLES.

President of the Franklin Business Association.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AND INVITED GUESTS:

On behalf of the Franklin Business Association it is my pleasant duty to welcome you here this evening to participate with us in the celebration of the bicentenary of the birth of our God-father, Benjamin Franklin, whose honoured name our municipality bears. The duties of your presiding officer this evening are most pleasant, but I beg to assure you that it will be analogous to that of the menu at the board, which tells of the good things that are spread before you for your mental enjoyment rather than to attempt, if I could, to edify or instruct. It seems not inappropriate at this time to read the telegram which we have received from our sister municipality in Pennsylvania. It is as follows:

FRANKLIN, PA., JAN. 17, 1906.

"To the Town of Franklin, Mass. Franklin, Penn., so named by Act of Assembly after Ben. Franklin in 1795, sends greetings and congratulations on our bicentennial being celebrated today."

J. R. ROBERTSON, Mayor.

Upon receipt of this, the following reply has been sent:

FRANKLIN, MASS., JAN. 17, 1906.

"To the Mayor of Franklin, Penn. Franklin, Mass., the first of that name incorporated and named in 1778, sends greeting to her sister city in Pennsylvania on the bicentenary of the birth of the man whose name we bear and whose fame we honour."

To the friends who are present with us this evening to participate with us in this celebration we extend a most cordial welcome and greeting. We believe that your presence here is evidence that

our efforts have not been in vain, and we trust that the occasion may be one that will be enjoyable and instructive.

To the sons and daughters of old Franklin, who have gone forth from among us, whose lives are cast in pleasant places, we welcome you today at the celebration of Ben. Franklin, who gave his name to your natal town. We are glad to learn of your success and achievements, whether in the industrial, mercantile or intellectual world, and we assure you that in old Franklin, at her fireside there is ever a chair waiting, and at the festive board is always a place reserved for your return. We trust that you will ever keep in mind the friends and associations of your youth.

We are fortunate in being represented as a municipality by our relatives, so to speak, the official representatives of the towns from which we were either offset or who have separated from us, they having honored us with their presence this evening, each being represented in an official capacity. The Town of Dedham, our grandmother, of whom there is first historical records as a town in 1636. Our mother, Wrentham, incorporated in 1673; Franklin, formerly the North Parish of Wrentham, incorporated March 2, 1778; Norfolk, our daughter set off in 1870, and our youngest sister set off from Wrentham is yet in her swaddling clothes having not yet attained the mature age of one year, the Town of Plainville. To each and all we welcome you at this family reunion and period of thanksgiving.

The Town of Franklin topographically is situated upon an eminence of high land from which she can view the broad acres and happy homes of her farming community, can view the scenes of industrial life and activity in her manufactories, and her broad streets teem with evidence of mercantile life, all of which she is justly proud. She also views with pleasure the evidence of prosperity, material and industrial in her neighboring towns. She has always lived in peace and harmony with them. Over the back-yard fences of our neighboring municipalities there have been no bickerings or quarrels. On the

contrary, we have rejoiced with them when men of intellect, strength and ability have been called to fill high places in the affairs of the several towns, or of the Commonwealth.

Introduction of Hon. Eben S. Draper.

The town of Franklin standing upon her eminence looking out into the west has seen a small community rise and flourish. A community founded upon the principles of love, amity and good will toward all mankind. Although small in area as an industrial community, it has grown to magnificent proportions, its products are known throughout the world. This has been due largely to the same principle of amity and good will which was the foundation of the town, and has been observed in the relations of employer and employee, which, combined with a rare executive ability, has made the town of Hopedale a pattern for other municipalities. From this community has been called and has represented his district, of which we are a part, in the halls of national legislation, his voice also has been potent in the diplomatic courts of Europe, I refer to the Honorable William F. Draper of Hopedale. It would seem that that were honour enough for one community to receive in a generation, but the people of this Commonwealth believing that the executive ability displayed in the successful management of the industrial affairs of this town should at least in part be devoted to the service of the Commonwealth, and she has called another of this family, one who has been in and out among us frequently as a neighbor and a friend in our homes, whose person is not unfamiliar on our streets. It does, indeed, give me great pleasure, and I have the honor to introduce to you as the first speaker of the evening, our neighbor and friend, His Honour, Eben S. Draper of Hopedale, the Lieutenant-Governor of this Commonwealth.

ADDRESS OF LIEUT. - GOV. EBEN S. DRAPER,
Representing the Commonwealth.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

It gives me great pleasure to be here this evening to join with you in this 200th Anniversary celebration of one of America's greatest men. We all have our own special heroes, men who appeal to us as the greatest among many who were great, and I have always considered Franklin one of the greatest figures in American history.

As I have read the history of the American Revolution, and the time immediately preceding and following, Washington, Hamilton and Franklin have been the three figures which have most impressed me. They were as unlike as possible, and were laboring in different fields, and in different ways, but each left an impress on the history of our country which will last as long as history is written. The army and successful organization of a nation were in Washington's and Hamilton's spheres, while our foreign relations and diplomacy were Franklin's special field. In each sphere success was earned in spite of the most tremendous obstacles.

I shall not undertake in this presence nor at this time to dwell on the character or accomplishments of the great man whose anniversary we are here to celebrate. You will hear that much more fully and accurately from others than I could hope to give it, but I can congratulate you on your name and what it stands for.

While those times were momentous and full of historical events, they were no more so than 1905 which has just passed. The great new nation of the East has been born, and in its birth it has been the direct cause of a new nation in Russia. While no one can tell what the ultimate form of Russia's government will be, it is very certain to be much different from what it has been, and in this great historical event our own country, through its great President, has played a wonderful part.

One hundred and twenty years ago Franklin's help was needed to get the slightest recognition from foreign nations of our existence. Today two great nations of the world stop warring and make peace under the guidance of our President. Is not the difference in position almost beyond belief, and how much of this accomplishment do we not owe to the great men who founded our republic.

The principles of true liberty and equality of all before the law were fought for in the War of the Revolution, and were established as the basis of our government by the great men who founded our nation. Keeping as near them as he could, our country has been the mecca for the people of all other nations who were not satisfied, either with their governmental conditions, their ability to earn a good living, or their opportunity to advance in the scale of civilization. While we have fallen many times from the high ideals that we had before us, and which were framed in our constitution, still on the whole we have done well in comparison with the other nations of the world, and as a result we have grown and prospered more than any previous nation in the world's history. So long as we maintain these ideals, and do not allow our seeming greatness to lead us astray, we shall continue to advance and prosper, and it seems to me that such occasions as this tend in no small degree to influence our minds in the right direction.

Recalling the greatness of those who have passed, and having their trials brought before us, and learning and studying how well they met and overcame them, we must certainly be filled with not only a great admiration for what they did, but with a great desire to emulate them in our day and generation.

It has been a special pleasure to me that my first public appearance since my assumption of the duties of Lieutenant-Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts should have been in my own neighborhood, and in a town so well deserving of its splendid name.

Introduction of Ex-Governor John L. Bates.

Ben. Franklin was nothing if not cosmopolitan. Born in Puritan New England, he had that stern common sense which stood him well throughout his life. However, he in early life went and became subjected to the influence of the mild Quaker. It was this moving about, this contact with men, which is perhaps a partial key to his success. We have had a denomination whose ministers, owing to the rules of their church, were somewhat migratory; I refer to the Methodist denomination. There was one eminent clergyman of this faith who had parishes throughout different sections of this Commonwealth. To him was born a son in the Town of North Easton. That son afterwards lived in various sections of this Commonwealth and came as near under the influence of our Town of Franklin as he could, by living in Blackstone, in that portion known as Millville. He finally, however, settled in Boston, in the practice of his profession, and from there began his career. He became interested, as should all good citizens, in public affairs, and it was not long before recognition came. First there was service in the City of Boston as a member of the Common Council; from that he was elected a member of the Massachusetts Legislature, and was chosen as Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the people of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, recognizing the ability of the man, elected him successively Lieutenant-Governor and Governor of this Commonwealth. I have the honor and privilege of introducing to you as the next speaker, who will address us upon the topic of "Boston, the Birthplace of Franklin," Ex-Governor John L. Bates of Boston.

ADDRESS OF EX-GOVERNOR JOHN L. BATES
of Boston.

PRESIDENT, YOUR HONOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I come to join with you in the exercises of this day and to congratulate you on your appropriate celebration. It is a proud distinction to bear the name of the most gifted man that this country has yet produced, and particularly fitting is it, when in many places and on two continents the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the birth of such a man is being commemorated, that the Town that has such a distinction should join in the celebration and mark the Anniversary by exercises of more than passing interest.

Eloquent words of eulogy of Benjamin Franklin will be spoken from a thousand platforms tonight. They will not add to his greatness, but, just as we do not expect to make men greater by erecting monuments to their memory, but rather that the silent bronze, forever testifying to the virtues of a great character, may tend to produce loftier sentiments, grander ideals and better citizenship in those who look upon it, so do we on such occasions as these, by recounting the virtues and achievements of the dead, expect in a measure to stimulate the living. We do not erect monuments or celebrate birthdays lest we forget, but rather because we cannot forget.

It may be that lives so honored have made men particularly indebted to them, but humanity, by its memorials, seeks not to discharge the debt but rather to give expression to its gratitude. For such a reason does the monument stand to Dr. Morton in the Public Garden in the City of Boston,—his discovery banishing from the world much of human agony. Recently there was dedicated in Boston the Hooker Monument, erected to express the gratitude of a people to the soldiers who saved the nation and kept all the stars in the constellation of our flag. To others, monuments have been erected because they represented some great cause. Horace Mann stands at the

right of the portals of our State House because of his devotion to the cause of education. Daniel Webster stands there because of his championship of the Constitution. William Lloyd Garrison sits serenely on the pedestal of granite on the finest avenue on the American continent because he dared to champion, notwithstanding the persecution of men, the cause of the slave. To others we have erected monuments because they represented to us certain American ideals. Such are memorials of Washington, Lincoln and McKinley, but to Franklin, America has erected memorials because he illustrates, more fully perhaps than any other, the possibilities of American life, —the great avenues of distinction, of knowledge, and of service to one's fellow men, open to every American who has the enterprise to see, the energy to enter, and the perseverance to continue upon them.

The subject assigned to me this evening is "Boston, the Birth-place of Franklin." When the representative of the Committee informed me that that was to be my subject, he suggested that it was not necessary to more than refer to it; but I am going to cling closer to my text than does the average clergyman in these modern days.

There is a type of humanity that we call the Yankee. He hails from New England. Boston has produced more Yankees than any other place in the world's history. Hence, in the mind of every New Englander it must follow that the world is more indebted to Boston than any other city that has existed.

In speaking of Boston this evening, I assume that you will understand that I refer not so much to Boston the city, as Boston the type,—Boston the concentrated New England.

A Yankee is the most inquisitive, the most curious, the most persevering genius of man extant today. He is never satisfied with what is. He was born to enlighten his fellow men. He does not mind incidentally being considered disagreeable so long as he feels that he is giving information that ought to be given or accomplishing a desirable end.

Lowell tells us that a Yankee is full of expedients not yet capable of comfort. General Horace Porter, who seems to have made a special study of this subject, says that "A Yankee can never let well enough alone; that a New Englander never goes to sleep in a sleeping car, but lies awake all night thinking how he can improve upon every device and patent in sight."

There is no doubt that Franklin was a Yankee, and, if history had not told us that he was born in Boston, a discriminating world would have had no difficulty in arriving at that conclusion. There has, however, been some difficulty in determining the exact place in Boston where Franklin was born. He himself once wrote that he was born in the house known as the "Blue Ball" that formerly stood near the corner of Union and Hanover streets, but, while Franklin was undoubtedly present and seems to have been, in common with all Boston born children, exceedingly precocious from the hour of his birth, it cannot be presumed, nevertheless, that he took particular notice of his surroundings at that time, and the historians have been unwilling to take his word in this matter as against the testimony of the Town records that clearly show that he was born on Milk street near the present corner of Washington street and opposite the Old South Church. This controversy caused Mark Twain to say "No man could be born in two places unless he was twins and that Franklin was twins."

The home into which he came as child number fifteen was humble, but strong in character, because of the influence of the old Puritan who was its head,—a sturdy independent who had come to this country twenty-one years before for the same reason that the settlers of 1620 and 1630 had come—that he might worship God in accordance with the dictates of his own conscience. Many years later, the Boston press, in publishing an account of his death, said "That he was enabled to die as he had lived with cheerfulness, leaving a numerous posterity the honor of being descended from a person who, through a long life, supported the character of an honest man."

The house where Franklin was born was constructed of wood, and was two stories high, with a pitched roof above, beneath which was the unfinished attic where Franklin as a young child slept. The two stories and attic of the house projected over the street after the fashion of many an old house still standing in New England. Rough clapboards covered the front, and rough shingles the sides and rear, and kept out the storm. There was but one room on the first floor of the main part of the house. This was used as a dining room, sitting room, or parlor as occasion demanded. There was a huge fire place on one side and into this the logs were rolled to keep the family warm. There were no stoves. The world was waiting for Franklin to invent them.

When Franklin was born, Boston itself was but a boy in age and experience as towns go. It was remote from the active world, surrounded by a wilderness. Perhaps nine thousand people lived in it. They had made for Governor Andros trouble and driven him forth from the Colony some years before this time, but their fame had not yet become great, nor were the characteristics, for which they afterward became noted, at this time generally recognized.

The town had visitors, then as now, who went back to their homes in England to write articles on their travels, some to praise, some to ridicule, and a few to do even justice.

It was about the time that Franklin first opened his eyes in the world that a Mr. Edward Ward of London wrote an interesting, if not flattering description of the town and its people. I would not dare to repeat all that he said. Let us, however, listen to him for a moment,—“Boston,” he says, “is the metropolis of New England.”

“The houses in some parts joyn as in London. The buildings, like their Women, being Neat and Handsome. And their Streets, like the Hearts of the Male Inhabitants are Paved with Pebble.”

“In the Chief, or high Street, there are stately Edifices, some of which have cost the owners two or three Thousand Pounds the rais-

ing; which, I think, plainly proves Two old Adages true, viz: That a Fool and his Money is soon parted; and, set a Beggar on Horse-back he'll Ride to the Devil; for the Fathers of these Men were Tinkers and Peddlers."

"The Inhabitants seem very Religious, showing many outward and visible Signs of an inward and Spiritual Grace; But tho' they wear in their Faces the Innocence of Doves, you will find them in their Dealings, as Subtile as Serpents. Interest is their Faith, Money their God and Large Possessions the only Heaven they covet."

"If you Kiss a Woman in Publick, tho' offer'd as a Courteous Salutation, if any Information is given to the Select Members, both shall be Whip'd or Fin'd."

"Another Inhabitant of the Town was fin'd Ten Shillings for Kissing his own wife in his Garden; and obstinately refusing to pay the Money, endured Twenty Lashes at the Gun. And at this rate one of the delightfulest Customs in the World will in time be quite thrown out of fashion, to the Old Folk satisfaction, but to the Young ones Lamentation, who love it as well in New-England, as we do in the Old."

"Every Tenth man is chose as one of the Select, who have power, together, to Regulate and Punish all Disorders that happen in their several Neighbourhoods. The Penalty for Drunkenness, is whipping or a Crown; Cursing or Swearing, the same Fine, or to be bor'd thro' the tongue with a hot iron; But get your Select Member into your Company and Treat him, and you may do either without offence; and be as safe as a Parishioner here in a Tavern in the Church Wardens Company in Sermon-time."

All of which goes to show that the public officials of Boston had their detractors in the early days as well as in more recent years, but not all writers were so severe, and civic pride as well as historic data compel me to believe that Daniel Neal's description, written not long after, is more in accordance with the facts. Among many interesting things Mr. Neal tells us,—

"There are five Printing-Presses in Boston, which are generally full of Work, by which it appears, that Humanity and the Knowledge of Letters flourish more here than in all the other English Plantations put together."

"There are at present twenty-five Allies, thirty-six Lanes, forty-two Streets, and in all together about three thousand Houses, several of which for the Beauty of the Buildings may compare with most in the City of London. The Town is well paved, and several of the streets as wide and spacious as can be desired."

"The Conversation in this Town is as polite as in most Cities and Towns in England; many of their Merchants having travelled into Europe; and those that stay at home having the Advantage of a free Conversation with Travellers; so that a Gentleman from London would almost think himself at home at Boston, when he observes the Number of People, their houses, their furniture, their Tables, their Dress and Conversation, which perhaps is as splendid and showy, as that of the most considerable Tradesman in London."

"Upon the whole, Boston is the most flourishing Town for Trade and Commerce in the English America; here the Governor commonly resides, the General Court and Assembly meet, the Courts of Judicature sit, and the Affairs of the whole Province are transacted; 'tis the best Port in New-England, from whence 3 or 400 Sail of Ships, Ketches, Brigantines &c. are laden every Year with Lumber, Beef, Port, Fish, &c. for several Parts of Europe and America."

Into this young Puritan town came Franklin, and, on the very day of his birth, in the midst of winter, was taken to the Old South Meeting House and baptized.

Notwithstanding his large family and humble trade, Franklin's father seems to have prospered, and when the boy was only six years old, the family moved to a new house purchased by the father and situated at the corner of Union and Hanover Streets, and being the house to which I have referred, known as the "Blue Ball" until the

time of its destruction in 1858. Union Street probably covers the space formerly occupied by this house, and the tide of busy, struggling humanity flows ceaselessly back and forth over it every day.

From this house Franklin went out to buy the famous whistle for which he too eagerly exchanged all the pennies in his pocket, and thereby made a bad bargain, from which, however, he learned the lesson that served him all his life-time, and has served the world well ever since.

It was in this home that he shocked his pious father by suggesting that it would save much time to say grace over the whole barrel of beef in lump instead of over each piece in detail as it came to the table.

From this house, for a period, he went daily to the old Latin School on School Street, at that time called the Grammar School, and located on the spot where the Franklin Statue now stands in front of the present City Hall. He was a leader among the boys of his age, self-reliant, strong, daring, a lover of pleasure, and somewhat inclined to mischief. He tells us how he and his comrades built a wharf on the marsh, for their own enjoyment, out of the stones that had been hauled there to build a cellar. The work of the boys was done by night, but the day discovered it, and when called to account, by his father, he strongly argued in defence the utility of his work, but his father's correction, judiciously applied, convinced him that nothing was useful that was not honest. Franklin never forgot that lesson.

Some years ago, one of the most distinguished editors of modern times said at a public gathering,—“I honor the memory of Franklin because he was a journeyman printer who did not drink, a philosopher who wrote common sense, and an office holder who did not steal.”

His schooling was very limited. His father recognizing his natural aptitude for study, desired for him a college education, and so

sent him to the Grammar School, but, after a few months, he saw that it was impossible for him to give the boy the education that he would like, and so he was taken from the Grammar School, which would have prepared him for college, and sent for a few months to a master who taught him arithmetic and only such studies as would be of immediate assistance to him in active business. He was in the Latin and Grammar School long enough to go to the head of his class and be promoted into another, and would have been advanced to a third had he been left there a few weeks longer. At the early age of ten years his school days were over, and he went to work for his father in the tallow-chandler's shop. It is needless to say that he did not like it and looked longingly towards the sea nearby as furnishing larger possibilities. His father recognized that a more congenial pursuit must be found for him if he wished to keep him on land, and finally, after the manner of the times, when only twelve years of age, he was bound to his brother James as an apprentice to learn the trade of a printer.

This suited him. It gave him an opportunity to get hold of books and to gratify his insatiable thirst for knowledge. He attempted the writing of ballads, which his brother printed, and which Franklin sold on the streets. In later years, in writing to his son, he described these ballads as "miserable stuff."

By the terms of apprenticeship his brother was bound to board him, but the boy proposed that he would board himself for one-half what his brother had to pay, and the offer was accepted, and Franklin boarded himself on one-half, and saved money to buy books and, as he noted, saved the time to read them that the others spent going back and forth to the boarding house.

At this time he began the discussion of public questions. He studied arithmetic, grammar, rhetoric and logic. He disguised his hand and sent anonymous articles to the newspaper that his brother published and was gratified to find them accepted and well spoken

of. When the secret was known, the brother was surprised to find that the boy, whose duty it was to distribute the paper to subscribers, had been filling the columns with some of the best material, and a consequent jealousy resulted. It was made unpleasant for the boy. Relief, however, came unexpectedly. The Massachusetts Assembly exercised the power that no modern General Court would dare to exercise, and, because it was offended at a certain article published in the brother's paper, sent the brother to prison for thirty days, and thus Benjamin had his opportunity. He ran the paper, defended boldly the right of speech, and said uncomplimentary things about those who interfered with it, and narrowly escaped imprisonment himself, but upon his brother's release, although the paper was run in Benjamin's charge to avoid trouble with the General Court, the ill feeling between the brothers grew rapidly, and Benjamin decided that he would not stay any longer. He found, however, every printing shop in Boston closed to him because of the stories his brother had circulated. His father was inclined to decide with the brother, and finally, at seventeen years of age, without notice to anyone, he ran away to the City of Philadelphia. His association with Boston thereafter was very meagre.

Having found friends in his adopted City, at their suggestion he returned to obtain funds from his father to start himself in business, but he was unsuccessful. He did not return to Boston again for ten years. Then, although twenty-seven years of age, he had already arrived at distinction,—his *Poor Richard's Almanac* had made him famous, and he had become successful in business. His relatives and his old friends welcomed him back again. For nearly half a century he continued his visits every ten years to his native place, and never did he lose his regard for the old town of his boyhood. It was one of the deepest regrets of his declining years that his weakness did not permit him to again visit the scenes of his childhood.

In 1784 he writes, "I long much to see again my native place. I left it in 1723; I visited it in 1733, 1743, 1753, and 1763. 1773 I was in England. 1775 I had a sight of it, but could not enter, it being in possession of the enemy."

In 1788 he wrote, "It would certainly be a very great pleasure to me if I could only once again visit my native town and walk over the ground I used to frequent when a boy, and where I enjoyed many of the innocent pleasures of youth, and where I might find some of my old acquaintances to converse with. I enjoy the company and conversation with its inhabitants when any of them are so good as to visit me, for, besides their general good sense, which I value, the Boston manner, term of phrase, and even tone of voice and accent of pronunciation, all please and seem to refresh and revive me."

He was anxious to show his love for New England by more than words, and so in his will he states, "I was born in Boston, New England, and owe my first instructions in literature to the three Grammar Schools established there,—I have, therefore, considered these schools in my will."

As the result of the provision that he made, thousands of bright scholars have been stimulated to their best efforts and have received the honor of a Franklin Medal. Another provision of the will was intended to give assistance to worthy Boston mechanics, and from the fund thus provided is soon to be developed the Franklin Institute.

Franklin's life and character were moulded by the seventeen years he lived in New England. He often attributed to the discipline of those years the characteristics for which he subsequently became famous. It was in Boston that he imbibed the spirit of Yankee thrift, of Yankee inquisitiveness, the desire for knowledge, the puritanical sense of duty and intellectual strength so manifest in his subsequent career.

The growth and development of Franklin's great character was no more remarkable than has been that of his native city. Then a small town of but a few inhabitants,—to-day it is a metropolis having 2,850,000 people living within a radius of fifty miles of its capital, making the community of which it is the center the second most populous in a nation of more than eighty millions of people. In that community live twice as many people as live within an equal distance of St. Louis; seven hundred thousand more than live within the same distance of Chicago, and three hundred thousand more than live within the same distance of Philadelphia. That community is served by more miles of steam and electric railway than any other in the United States without exception, and the per capita wealth of its inhabitants is larger by several hundred thousand dollars than that of any other large city.

Within this radius of fifty miles of Boston, there is one-thirtieth of the population of the country, and one-twentieth of its wealth; while one-fifth of all the Savings Bank deposits, representing the prosperity of the great mass of its people, are to be found there also.

The state of which it is the capital and whose population is nearly all gathered within that radius of fifty miles, has no mines of gold nor silver nor copper nor iron, yet it has furnished the capital for the development of such mines in almost every state in the Union. It has no fertile plains upon which to raise herds of cattle, yet its manufacturers consume more hides and make more shoes than all the rest of the American people. Not a pound of cotton is grown within its borders, and yet it makes the cloth for the clothing of one-half the nation.

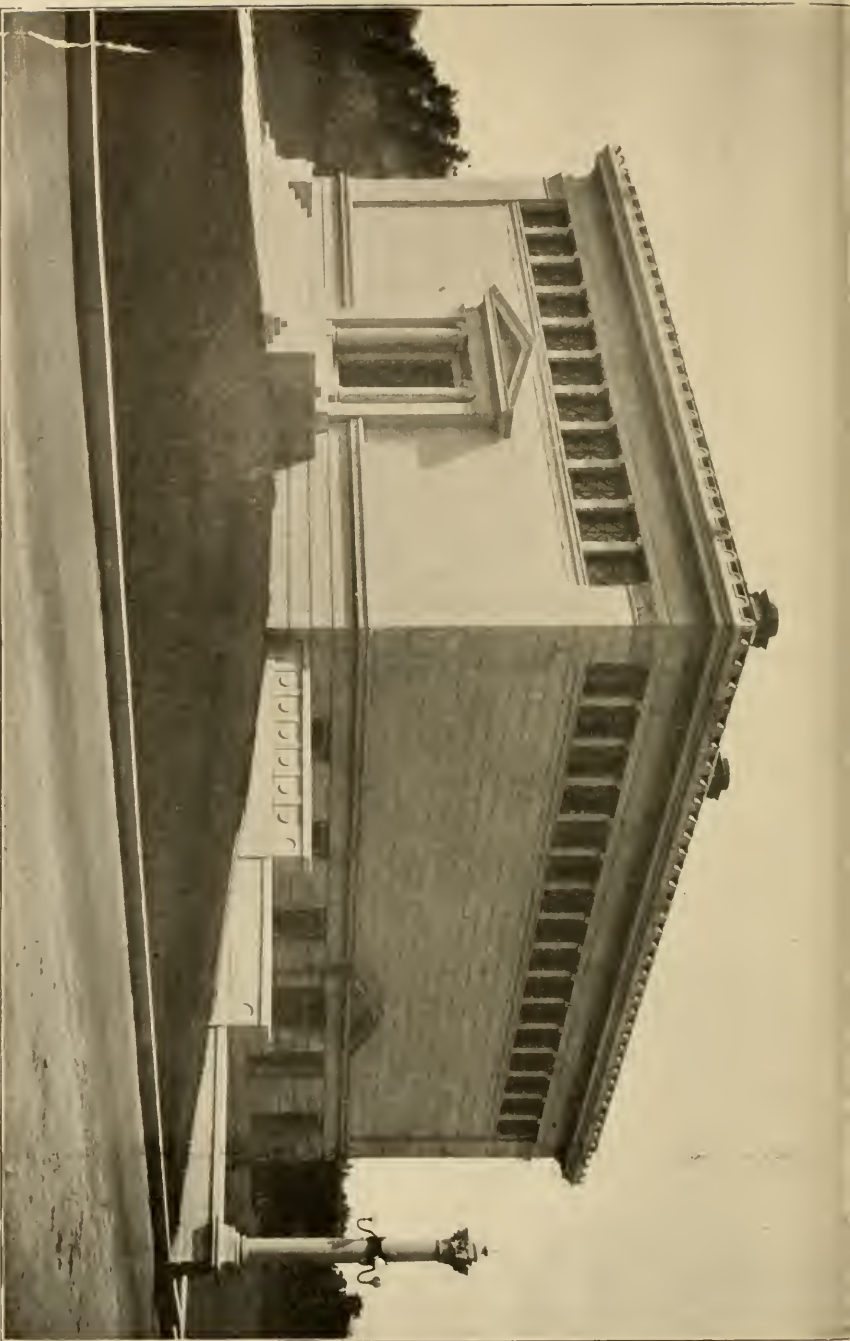
First settled by those who looked to the fisheries for their maintenance, gradually developing as a great maritime people, forced to leave the sea by reason of the nation's tariff policy, they built up a system of manufactures that has given them the proud

distinction of serving the nation and the right to take tribute from the nation because of the service rendered. But her citizens pride themselves not in her material welfare, but in fact, rather, that Massachusetts has not lived for herself alone. All the states shared with her the heritage of Plymouth Rock—religious liberty—the heritage of Lexington Green and Concord Bridge, political liberty. Not for her alone did her Franklin stand before Kings and Parliaments, and her Adams summon patriots, and her Otis fling the fire brands of revolution, and her Warren lay down his life on Bunker Hill. Her historians, Bancroft, Prescott, Parker and Fiske, have not told the story of human liberty for Massachusetts alone, but for all men. Her Longfellow, Holmes, Lowell and Whittier have breathed forth songs, not for Massachusetts only, but songs that shall refresh and inspire generations of men as yet unborn and in all lands.

From the days of Franklin even to the present, she has sent forth her sons and daughters for the settling and building of all that is west of her, and the descendants of her sons and daughters are to be numbered by hundreds of thousands and to be found in every state.

Only this morning we read in the papers of the death of Marshall Field of Chicago, the wealthiest and most princely of American merchants, and the man, who, measured by his achievements in trade, has had the greatest success of any that has lived in modern times, and yet a man of kind heart, of strict integrity, and of humane characteristics. He too illustrates the fact that Massachusetts has not lived for herself alone, for he was born on Massachusetts soil, and he received his early training here. So the wealth of Massachusetts, accumulated by her thrift and industry, has not been used selfishly, but for the construction of railroads across the continent, for the laying of the Atlantic cable, for the building of great public works, and the development of resources hidden in

the earth. To her Universities, established by the sacrifices of her people, have come not only her own sons but those of the nation, and from them they have gone forth to make discoveries for the benefit of mankind in every field of human endeavor. Herself prosperous, she has heard the cry of struggling men; she has demanded the emancipation of the slave; she has sent her benefactions to the suffering beyond the seas. Her Franklin grasped the lightning and her sons have made it the winged messenger, traveling with the speed of light and bringing the entire world into one compact community and brotherhood. She has erected her works, planted her men, and marshalled her thoughts, and vindicated her ideas throughout the world. But Boston, or that larger Boston that we call Massachusetts, is not content so long as there are still fields of endeavor unexplored, so long as there are possibilities of commerce, opportunities of trade, or chances for usefulness not availed of; not content so long as crime fills her prisons or misfortune and untoward conditions fill her insane asylums; not content so long as problems of government remain to be solved; not content so long as barriers divide her people into classes; not content so long as wrongs remain unavenged, whether in Massachusetts or in Russia or in Turkey; not content so long as a single worker is denied a living wage, or the healthful surroundings and home that make possible the enjoyment of life. Whatever may have been the glory of the past, there can never come the time when the Boston, the New England idea, the spirit of Yankee enterprise, of dissatisfaction with things that are wrong, and of perseverance in forwarding the right, will not be needed in this expanding world, and so long as this spirit animates our people, it may be said of them as it was said, by the French poet, of Franklin, "All mankind owe you a debt of gratitude."



The Ray Memorial Library

Directed in memory of the late Joseph Gordon Ray and Emily Rockwood Ray, by their daughters, Mrs. Lydia Kay Peirce and Mrs. Annie Ray Thayer. The classic beauty of the outside of the building and the artistic merit of the decorative paintings inside makes this perhaps the finest library building outside of Boston in New England. * * * The Benjamin Franklin Library mentioned on page 10 is contained in this building.

Introduction of Prof. Arthur W. Peirce.

Our Town of Franklin is unique in one respect, that from its namesake it has something that is tangible, Benjamin Franklin having presented as evidence of his regard and esteem for the town about to be named for him a collection of books. Those books have become incorporated into and have become a part of that portion of Franklin which is dear to it as a memorial to one of its eminent citizens and his beloved wife; a Public Library, with architecture pleasing and interior decoration restful and appropriate. It will abide for all time. Another friend of Franklin, Oliver Dean, one of its merchants, from the beneficence of his heart endowed an institution of learning which has become known, not only throughout the length and breadth of this Commonwealth, but throughout our nation. It is therefore extremely appropriate and fitting that he who will speak to us upon Franklin and Franklin Library is one whom we are pleased to know as one of our fellow citizens, honored in the educational life, esteemed for his breadth of learning, and officially connected with the Franklin Library. I have the pleasure of introducing to you Professor Arthur W. Peirce, Principal of Dean Academy, who will address us upon the subject of "Franklin and the Franklin Library."

ADDRESS OF PROF. ARTHUR W. PEIRCE,

Principal of Dean Academy.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Fortunate is the town whose history and tradition leads back to some memorable event or some eminent man. Lexington, Concord, Plymouth have a priceless heritage in their historic past; a heritage that not only adds lustre to these names, but inspires a

high degree of civic pride in their citizens. History has given them a name and place that sets them in a class apart from other municipalities. Poor, indeed, would be the citizens of these towns if they did not take just pride in their honored past, and be filled with a keen desire to make the present and the future worthy of what has been.

In this respect our own fair town is specially fortunate. Like Paul, we are citizens of no mean city. While our soil has never been the scene of any great battle, it has much that links it closely with history and great men. Over our fields and hills roamed King Philip and his Indian warriors, leaving us for our lakes the names of Uncas, Wollomonopoag, and King Philip. The lustre of the name of Horace Mann, the first of American educators, is shed upon this, the town of his birth. But most prized of all historic associations are these ties that connect us with the great American commoner, Benjamin Franklin. It were honor enough that this was the first of the thirty or more towns in the United States to recognize the greatness of the man and honor him by taking his name. Go where you will in these modern days, you find towns, counties, villages, squares, and streets named for this great man. Even Paris has its Franklin street. We count ourselves fortunate in being the first to recognize his abounding greatness and to honor ourselves and him by taking his name.

But even this honor is a slight thing when compared to the one great fact of our town history, that Benjamin Franklin gave us the books to found our library. In the year 1785, full of years and honor, the admired of the French court, our first great diplomat and statesman, the most famous scientific man of his day, he found it a pleasure and a high duty to send this "little community of intelligent and respectable farmers" a collection of books, large for those days and generous for a man of his means. With the characteristic Franklin point of view, he substitutes this gift for the de-

sired "meeting house bell," preferring "sense to sound" as he says in his famous letter. Dr. Emmons, in his sermon on receipt of the books speaks of the gift as "a mark of respect of the first literary character of America."

Earlier private lending or subscription libraries had been founded in the colonies—Franklin himself was the founder of the first in Philadelphia—a town in Connecticut had received a library of books from a gentleman in England; but these all long since ceased to exist, but the claim can be fairly made for the Franklin Library that it was the first Free Town Library in America which is still in existence. Thirty years before these books were received, there seems to have been a Parish Library, one of the earliest in the colonies, in connection with the church of this precinct of the Town of Wrentham, but from the receipt of the books of Dr. Franklin, the town, in Town Meeting assembled, voted that the custodian, Dr. Emmons, pastor of the church, "be instructed to loan the books to the inhabitants at large of this town in accordance with the instructions of Dr. Franklin." If there are other libraries, now existent, of this same public character, that reach back to an earlier day, diligent search has failed to find the record. It is worthy of note, too, that this library is called the Franklin library, not because it constitutes the Public Library of the Town of Franklin but by vote of the town the original books were constituted the Franklin Library in honor of the donor.

The full history of the Franklin Library has never been written. Interesting as the story is, it would be too long for this time and place, and I must beg the privilege accorded to our legislators and ask leave "to report in print," that the time this evening may be given to the consideration of the eminent man himself, whose birthday we celebrate.

This occasion, however, should not pass without a due recognition of the memorable gift of Franklin to this town; a gift price-

less in its historic suggestions and one that makes our library unique among the great multitude of Public Libraries, which are at once the pride and glory of our people. That these precious books should ever have found poor shelter in the loft of a barn seems incredible. The Boston correspondent of the New York Evening Post in December 1887 reproaches the Town of Franklin severely for letting pass without fitting celebration the hundredth anniversary of the receipt of these priceless books. We make tardy but complete atonement for the remissness of other days by the beautiful housing now given to these time worn volumes and in this, our celebration of the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of our benefactor, we record our belief that nothing in the Town of Franklin is more precious or more significant than these ancient volumes, the chief gem of our beautiful library, that link us indissolubly to the name and fame of one of the greatest of the sons of America.

THE BICENTENARY POEM,

By Miss Maude Louise Ray.

Upon a quiet Boston street,—
 Oh, some two centuries ago,—
Humor and Science chanced to meet.
(They both belonged to the elite
 Of town, you know).
Benevolence they turned to greet
 As she came strolling through the snow
With old Philosophy discreet,
Who hardly seemed to feel the sleet—
 Or acted so:

Religion, queerly dressed, I hear,
 And trusty Commonsense were there,—
When suddenly, from very near,
A baby's laughter, sweet and clear,
 Rang on the air!
"Let each," cried Humor "now and here,
 Some virtue of his own forswear
And give this child; I'll offer cheer
And charity that will endear
 Him anywhere."

"And I bestow the fear of God."
 "And I a spirit sane and free"
"I'll give him patience, 'neath the rod,"
"The end of paths as yet untrod
 This child shall see."
And so this fable, strange and odd,
 I tell you as it came to me.
"A prophecy indeed," you nod,
"For famed at home and far abroad
 Today is he."

The Benjamin Franklin Celebration

If years we might eliminate

And summon Franklin here tonight,

No doubt we'd be obliged to wait

Until he should investigate

Th' electric light!

Or possibly, if he were late,

He'd send a wireless in his plight:

"Detained by officers of state,

Because I failed to regulate

My airship's flight."

Perhaps the famous wit would rise,

Whose spirits care could never down,

And ere commenced his discourse wise,

Would say, with half a compromise

'Twixt smile and frown,

"With your kind wish I sympathise

To add a bit to my renown

And possibly," with twinkling eyes,

"To incidentally advertise

Your little town."

Our reverence and our respect

For him must mingle with a smile.

Such wordly wisdom we detect.

Diplomacy with humor flecked

And harmless guile;

A knowledge broad and circumspect

In practical affairs the while;

A man of mighty intellect

As Chesterfield himself correct

In point of style.

Would that the keen and ready wit
Of him whose birth we celebrate,
My every word might penetrate
And make it Franklinesque and fit,
And send it, quivering and bright,
To find a lodging for the night
In any brain it chanced to hit.

Or for a single hour, alack,
Might I pull on Poor Richard's shoes
And through such magic footgear, choose
To be transported centuries back,
To Philadelphia, quite alive
In seventeen hundred and thirty-five,
I'd peddle you an almanac.

What gems of "saving common-sense"
In Market street were then for sale!
Our nation's head himself might quail
Before such rules for diligence;
And well may modern printers say,
Conceding competition's sway,
"At least, Ben. Franklin's safely hence!"

Th' athletic and inventive youth
Adventuring in his own soul;
The comrade gay of "flowing bowl,"
Whose jovial songs were famed, forsooth,
As far as was his glowing zest
In every scientific quest
Or search for underlying truth;

Beloved by Protestant and Priest
Although Freethinker to the end;
The noblest in the land his friend,

Yet by the humblest feared the least:
In Old World courts his presence grew,
As in the councils of the New,
To mean a veritable feast.

Would that his patriotism fine
In many a politician's brain
Might happily be born again
And dross to purest gold refine:
Might teach the worth of solid facts,
Might stimulate to noble acts
Unstained by low or base design.

Since that far time when in the morn
Of Freedom's day our land was born
And from the loveless mother wrenched,
Who thought to nurse her babe with scorn,
To youth America has grown,
Great signs of promise she has shown,
And many a glorious deed she's done
And many a prize her valor's won,
Still shines her beauty in the sun
Of great prosperity.

Yet all too easily forgot
The stains that her fair record blot,
The crimes defended in her name,
That traitors and their hirelings plot—
For such there are in every town
Who strive to tear Old Glory down
And desecrate each blood-bought fold
With greed and lust and love of gold
And shame on shame as yet untold.
But 'twill be history.

What would the patriot crew demand
By whom our Ship of State was manned
 When demolition threatened her
At England's mighty, unjust hand?
 Franklin I seem to hear declare
 With subtle wisdom grave and rare,
That quite too high a price is shame
To pay to win in any game.
The lustre of a hard-earned fame
 Too soon may tarnished be.

Serene, with courage unsurpassed,
Through fiery trial Franklin passed,
 The great humanitarian,
Serving his country to the last,
 Long past the three score years and ten
 That cooled the zeal of lesser men.
By men like him the gems were set
In Queen America's coronet,
For truth and courage sparkling yet
 And dazzling purity.

Generous of service, great or small,
His wisdom, wealth,—he gave them all
 Does not the honour of his name
Our town to high endeavor call?
 A smaller boon the books we prize
 Than his example, great and wise
By Nature's bounty beautified,
A past to which we point with pride,
May civic virtue long abide
 And true nobility.

FRANKLIN AS A MAN OF LETTERS.

Address by Leon H. Vincent.

Mr. Leon H. Vincent gave an address on "Franklin as a Man of Letters." After describing the conditions of Franklin's early life, his work as a printer, journalist, and man of science, the speaker told the anecdote of Priestley's reproaching Franklin for his hostility to Christianity. The philosopher replied that he had never given much time to the question of the evidences of Christianity, and asked Priestley to recommend some books on the subject but begged that he would not recommend any very long books.

The speaker then went on to say :

It may be that Franklin's dislike of long books on religion was only a phase of a dislike for long books on any topic. He thought it was impossible to say what one *had* to say in less time than is usually taken. His own writings are very brief, the longest of them, the *Autobiography*, contains only three hundred pages.

But there is little virtue in being brief unless you are also pointed. And Franklin was certainly that. Franklin was a master of the art of condensed witty expression. And he had a gift for homely proverb and wise saw. It was he who said : "The proof of gold is fire ; the proof of a woman, gold ; the proof of a man, a woman." It was he who said : "Drink water ; put money in your pocket and leave the dry belly-ache in the punch-bowl." The truth is not a new one in this next proverb, but the putting of it is very new : "He is no clown that drives the plow, but he that does clownish things." He solved the intricate question of hired help a hundred and fifty years ago : "Let the maid-servant be faithful, strong, and homely." He also remarked that "three may keep a secret if two of them are

dead." He said: "Those have a short Lent who owe money to be paid at Easter." His observation was a wise one that "creditors have better memories than debtors;" "creditors," he says, "are a superstitious sect, great observers of set days and times." It was Poor Richard who said, "If you would know the value of money go and try to borrow some." And even if you were able to borrow it was a questionable good, nay, altogether an evil, for "who goes a-borrowing goes a-sorrowing." It was Franklin who set the limits of hospitality when he said "Fish and visitors smell in three days."

This was the sort of things that made Franklin famous in that early day. These sayings were passed from lip to lip, copied from one newspaper into another newspaper. People took a pleasure in their pith and sense, and watched eagerly for their appearance.

Franklin's writings may be divided into four classes. I do not, however, include his purely scientific writings in this analysis. They form a division by themselves.

- I. PROVERBS AND MAXIMS.
- II. PHILOSOPHICAL TALES AND SATIRES.
- III. POLITICAL SATIRES.
- IV. THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

No one will deny that Franklin's greatest gift to American literature is his *Autobiography*. We could part with almost anything rather than that. It is a masterpiece, one of the few which America has produced. The *Autobiography* belongs to the close of his literary life. It exhibits his urbane, placid, inimitable style at its best. All the results of a lifetime of practice with the pen are manifest in this simple narrative, written with a consummate art which conceals every trace of the work-shop. So far as style is concerned a man ought to write better the older he grows. Franklin certainly wrote better as he advanced in years, and the *Autobiography* is the very flower of his work, which, by the way, is not all flowers, but represented in spots by weeds and thistles, and some of these weeds altogether malodorous.

Take the first division, Proverbs and Maxims. Most of these appeared in the famous almanac known as *Poor Richard*. The first issue was for the year 1733. It was published towards the close of the preceding year and quickly went through three editions. So far as the tables of lunations, tides, and eclipses were concerned *Poor Richard* was much like other almanacs. But for ingenuity and wit it was (with one exception) the best almanac the colonies had yet seen.

Writing under the name of Richard Saunders, Franklin attracted public notice by jesting at the expense of his fellow almanac-maker, Mr. Titan Leeds. He may have got the idea from Dean Swift. Twenty-five years earlier Swift had published a series of mock predictions for the year 1708, in which he announced that John Partridge, the notorious astrologer and almanac-maker, would infallibly die on the 29th of March next, at eleven o'clock at night, of a raging fever. As soon as the time rolled round Swift came out with another pamphlet in which he declared that in accordance with his prediction Partridge was now dead. It was of no use for the angry astrologer to protest that he wasn't dead, the whole town insisted that he was, and that he ought to keep quiet. It is said that the parish bell rung for him, undertakers came to measure him, hired mourners beset the door.

So Franklin, speaking as Richard Saunders, says that his reasons for making an almanac are first, that he wants money, and in the next place his "good friend and fellow-student, Mr. Titan Leeds" is going to die soon and won't be able to make any more almanacs. Naturally Leeds protested that he had no intention of dying, that Richard Saunders was a false prophet, a liar, and a number of other disagreeable things. The public was delighted with the contest, for having once stirred up his adversary, Franklin saw to it that he was kept stirred up.

The prefaces of the successive almanacs are genuinely amusing and Richard and his wife, Bridget, are real characters. Bridget some-

times took advantage of her husband's absence to look over his manuscript and when she found a great deal of weather in next year's predictions she would cut it all out and put in "fine weather for housewives to dry their clothes in."

The strength of the almanac lay in the proverbs, such as "Diligence is the mother of good luck," "Wealth is not his that has it, but his that enjoys it," "Don't throw stones at your neighbors if your own windows are glass," "He that can have patience can have what he will."

"Other maxims of Poor Richard's are wittier in thought or in phrasing: "Beware of the young doctor and the old barber," "Men and melons are hard to know," "If your head is wax don't walk in the sun," "He that lieth down with dogs shall rise up with fleas."

Franklin was one of the first in America to introduce the practice of sarcastic and humorous comment on other cities and localities than that in which the journalist lives. We are acquainted with it in the various forms it takes in our illustrated journals and comic paragraphs. New York makes fun of Chicago, Chicago of St. Louis, the East generally of the West, the West of the Far West. In "Life" the other day was a little sketch representing Gabriel blowing his trumpet and a great procession of earth's inhabitants marching upward in answer to the call. Two New Yorkers are walking side by side and lamenting each to the other that their friend Smith is over in Philadelphia on business and won't hear of it for two or three days. Franklin says in the *Poor Richard* for 1738: "Ships sailing down the Delaware Bay in August shall hear at ten leagues a confused rattling noise like a swarm of hail on a cake of ice. Don't be frightened, good passengers, the sailors can inform you that 'tis nothing but lower County teeth in the ague. In a southerly wind you may hear it at Philadelphia." In the breadth and audacity of the conception we see that American quality of humor. This is one phase of the American joke—the great American joke—and Franklin was perhaps the first to set the example for other paragraphers.

If the proverb by itself has a certain force, what shall we say of proverbs by the score. It is the difference between a single shot and a volley. A case in point is "Father Abraham's Address," sometimes called "The Way to Wealth," published in *Poor Richard* for 1758. All things considered, "The Way to Wealth" has been the most popular of Franklin's many popular pieces. There were ten thousand copies in that particular edition of the Almanac. The newspapers published it over and over again. In 1760 Franklin himself reprinted it as a broadside, that is, a great sheet like a newspaper. It was published in Boston as a pamphlet with a folding plate showing Father Abraham in his study. It was republished in New Haven, New London and Philadelphia. It was translated in French and large editions of it distributed gratuitously among the poor people by the priests and the nobles. It has appeared in German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Dutch, Bohemian, Modern Greek, Gaelic and Portuguese. What a marvellous adaptability to the human mind is evinced in this little piece where the art is so unobtrusive that it seems as if any one might have written it.

The second division of Franklin's writings consists of Tales, Parodies and Satires, little sketches varying in length from a page and a half to five or six pages, inimitable in manner, and of a charm as elusive as it is delightful. Among the best of these are "The Ephemeris," "The Whistle," "The Craven-Street Gazette," "The Petition of the Letter Z," "Franklin and the Gout," "The Morals of Chess," "The Handsome and Deformed Leg," the letter "To Madame Helvétius," the very amusing papers on the "Custom of Whitewashing in America," and the no less entertaining address to the Parisians called "An Economical Project."

The third division of Franklin's writings consists of Political Satires and other papers. He applies the same method to questions of politics that he had applied to questions of morality, education and everyday life. Every page of this writing is stamped with the seal



COURTESY OF BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Benjamin Franklin

From a bust in marble in the Boston Public Library

of his amazing shrewdness and wit. The political papers cover a wide period of time if we count from "Plain Truth" (published in 1844) to the "Comparison between the Ancient Jews and the American Federalists."

Two of his pamphlets at least I want you to remember by name: first, "Rules for Reducing a Great Empire to a Small One;" second, "An Edict by the King of Prussia." He also satirized English ignorance of America in a letter in a newspaper signed "Traveller." It was in this letter that he told the wonderful story about American sheep whose very tails are so laden with wool that each has a little car or wagon on four little wheels to support and keep the tail from trailing on the ground. He also described cod and whale fishing in Lake Ontario. Franklin explained to his English readers that a whale was so fond of codfish that he would follow them anywhere. The cod being small could go where they liked, and the whales would be always at their heels. The cod come up the St. Lawrence into Ontario and so on to Niagara, closely pursued by their enemies. When they arrive at the great cataract the cod jump up and the whales jump after them. Says Franklin in his grave narrative (and you can almost see the benevolent gleam of his huge glasses)—says Franklin: "The grand leap of a whale up the Falls of Niagara is estimated, by all who have seen it, one of the finest spectacles in Nature."

And thus it is that both these kinds of fish arrive in Lake Erie, and it is possible to enjoy salt water fishing without going to the ocean. We shall not for a moment assume that everybody who read these monstrous statements believed them. But there were some who did. And of them a punster sagely remarks that in describing the fish Franklin was making suckers of the people.

What we ought chiefly to note in these pieces is the new quality unknown in European humor. Franklin was the first of the American humorists. He was the forerunner of the Mark Twains, the Art-

emas Wards, the Bill Nyes. He first taught the new world tricks of homely exaggeration for purposes of langhter and satire. Other humorists had known the virtues of overgrown statement, but Franklin was the first to make the vastness of the country a basis for imposition upon the credulity of foreigners. The manner remains with us to this day. It is one of the earmarks of that which he call American humor.

I would not make too close a comparison between Dean Swift and Benjamin Franklin; but there was one marked likeness. With each of them literature was not an end in itself but a means to an end. They wrote because they had something to say. Neither cared much whether any fame was attached to the performance or not. Swift never put his name to his book. Franklin published many things anonymously and often forgot what he had written. Lord Kames wanted to get copies of his writings and Franklin was only able to send him two or three little things, and was at a loss to say whether his other books were to be had or not. This is the absolute negation of literary egoism. I suppose that Franklin never in his life wrote a line for notoriety's sake. He always looked beyond the essay or the book to that object for which essay and book had been composed. If he accomplished his object the whole thing dropped away from his consciousness and another took its place.

The object of this study is to enlogize Franklin the Man of Letters. But while we praise him for his skill in the literary art we must not forget his services to politics, to science, and above all, to that great cause of promoting the public and private weal. He enjoyed a varied, a fruitful and a prosperous career. Few men would dare to say what Franklin said in his old age: "That if the offer were made him he would have no objection to living his life over again." He did not mean that he was perfectly satisfied with it. He thought he would like the privilege which authors enjoy correcting in a second edition the mistakes of the first. If that were denied him he would accept life on the former terms.

His comprehensive and practical intelligence brought him in touch with affairs and men of all sorts and of all conditions. He conducted the first American newspaper worthy of the name, the great editors who came after him, the Greeleys, the Bryants and the Danas, merely applied Franklin's method to the more complex needs of their own time.

The art of keeping a store is more intricate than most people know. Franklin taught this art to perfection. The merchant princes of today whether they know it or not are immensely indebted to Franklin. He laid down the theory and practiced his theory to prove its soundness. They follow in his footsteps.

He was one of the first of that splendid type of American citizen whom we call public-spirited—men who honestly desire to better the condition of their fellows who have no thought of personal advantage in their reforms. Nothing escaped Franklin's notice. Some men know how the affairs of the state should be conducted but are helpless when it is a question of paving a street or teaching a lamp how not to smoke. Franklin was good at either. He was interested alike in libraries and fire companies, in sewerage and drainage and in political philosophy.

He was the father of modern electrical science. He raised a kite during a thunder storm and drew electricity from it to charge a Leyden jar, thus proving the identity of lightning and common frictional electricity. The Edisons and Marconis of our day know a thousand times more than Franklin ever dreamed. Nevertheless Franklin was the pioneer. He showed the way and made it possible for modern men of science to do what they have done.

The statue of Franklin in front of the University of Pennsylvania commemorates the great experiment and represents the philosopher in the act of drawing lightning from the clouds. In a few seconds he had laid the foundations of a new science. We ought to admire the physical courage, the sheer audacity of the man.

How did he know that he wouldn't be struck dead as the thunder cloud passed over his kite? The incident was spectacular and of itself might have made him immortal; but it is only a single incident in his marvellous career.

He was a friend of man, a humanist in the best sense of the word. Therefore he hated war, and all the murderous pomp and circumstance thereof. He thought that fighting was the most barbarous and idiotic way of settling a dispute that could be conceived. He once told his friend Priestley that with all our improvements in physical science, it was a pity we could not make some improvements in moral science, and learn how to settle our quarrels without first cutting another's throat. He even went so far as to say that he doubted whether there had ever been in the history of the world a just war or an unjust peace.

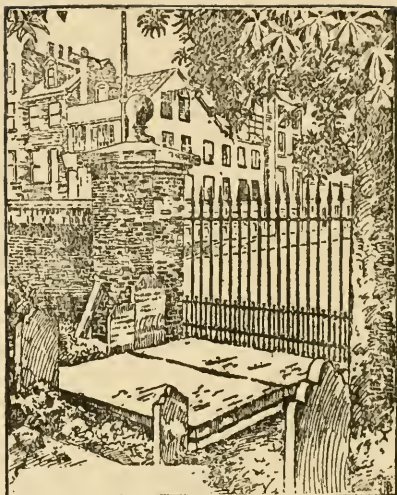
It is worth our while to remember that both Voltaire and Franklin held this opinion with respect to war, the two men who are accounted arch enemies of Christianity were more civilized than many nominal Christians in this particular. Franklin opposed the war of the Revolution until it resolved itself into a case of self-defense. He believed that a man had a right to protect his family, his property and himself. And he labored earnestly for peace when he thought there was a possibility of bringing it about.

With the work of Benjamin Franklin we see how American literature made not merely a distinct but a great step forward. Here are all the qualities which help to differentiate our literary product from that of the mother country. Moreover Franklin's *Autobiography* has that mark of sophistication which is always a test or proof of the existence of literature. For literature is an art, and art is always self-conscious; and if it is not self-conscious the less honor to him who produces the art. A man may not know how magnificently he is writing but he must at least know that he is writing. Milton speaks of Shakespeare "warbling his native

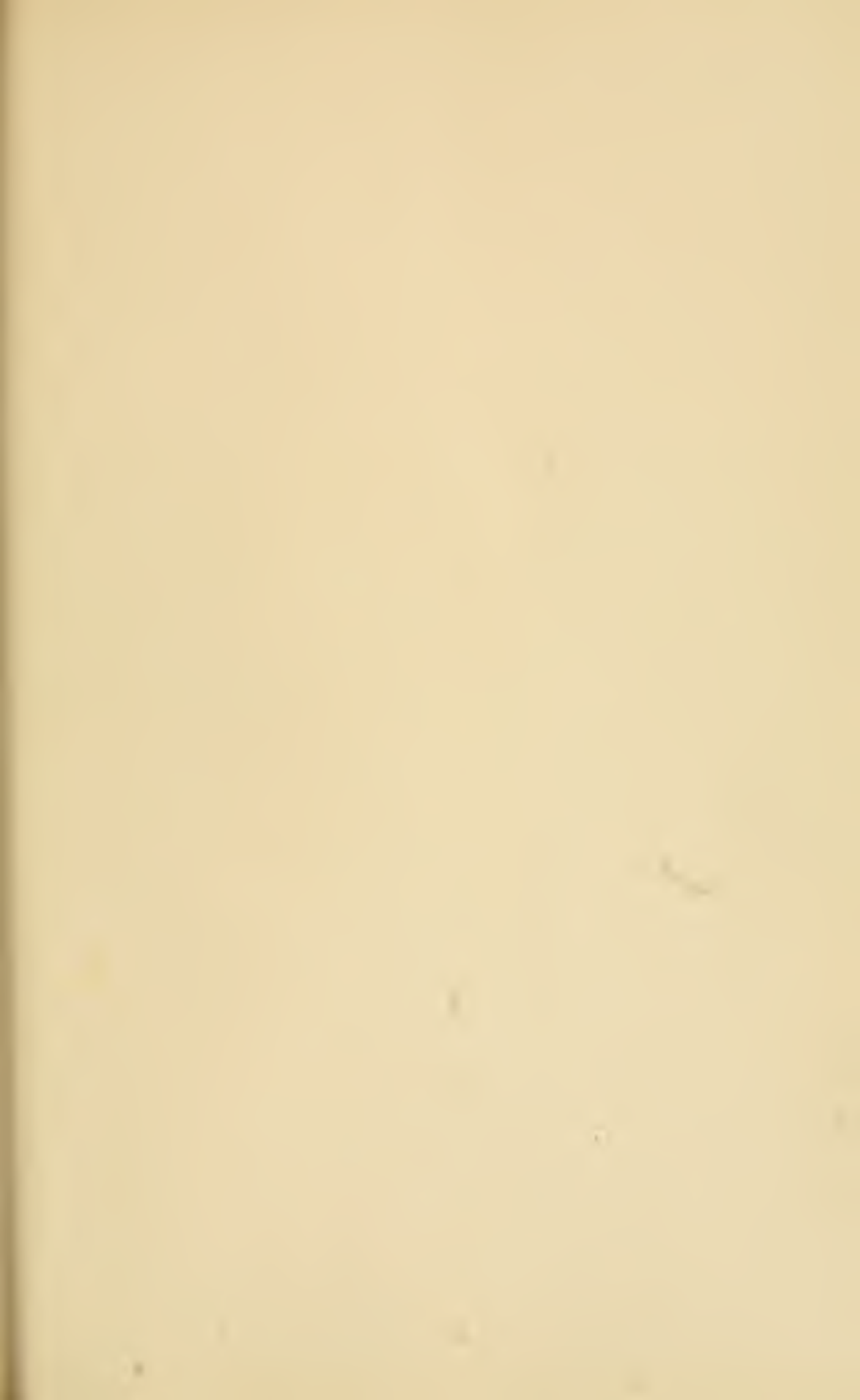
wood-notes wild," but Milton did not mean that Shakespeare was a kind of literary Blind Tom who did not know what he was about. With all his spontaneity Shakespeare was a consummate artist.

In this self-consciousness of Franklin's Autobiography we see the beginnings of that which was later to produce the sketch-book of Irving, the Tales of Edgar Poe, Hawthorne's "Scarlet Letter," the essays of Emerson and the poems of Longfellow, Whittier and Lowell. With Franklin a new literature which we call American began actually to exist.

The exercises closed with the audience all joining in "America," William S. Johnson presiding at the piano, thus ending one of the most successful and representative celebrations ever held in the town of Franklin.



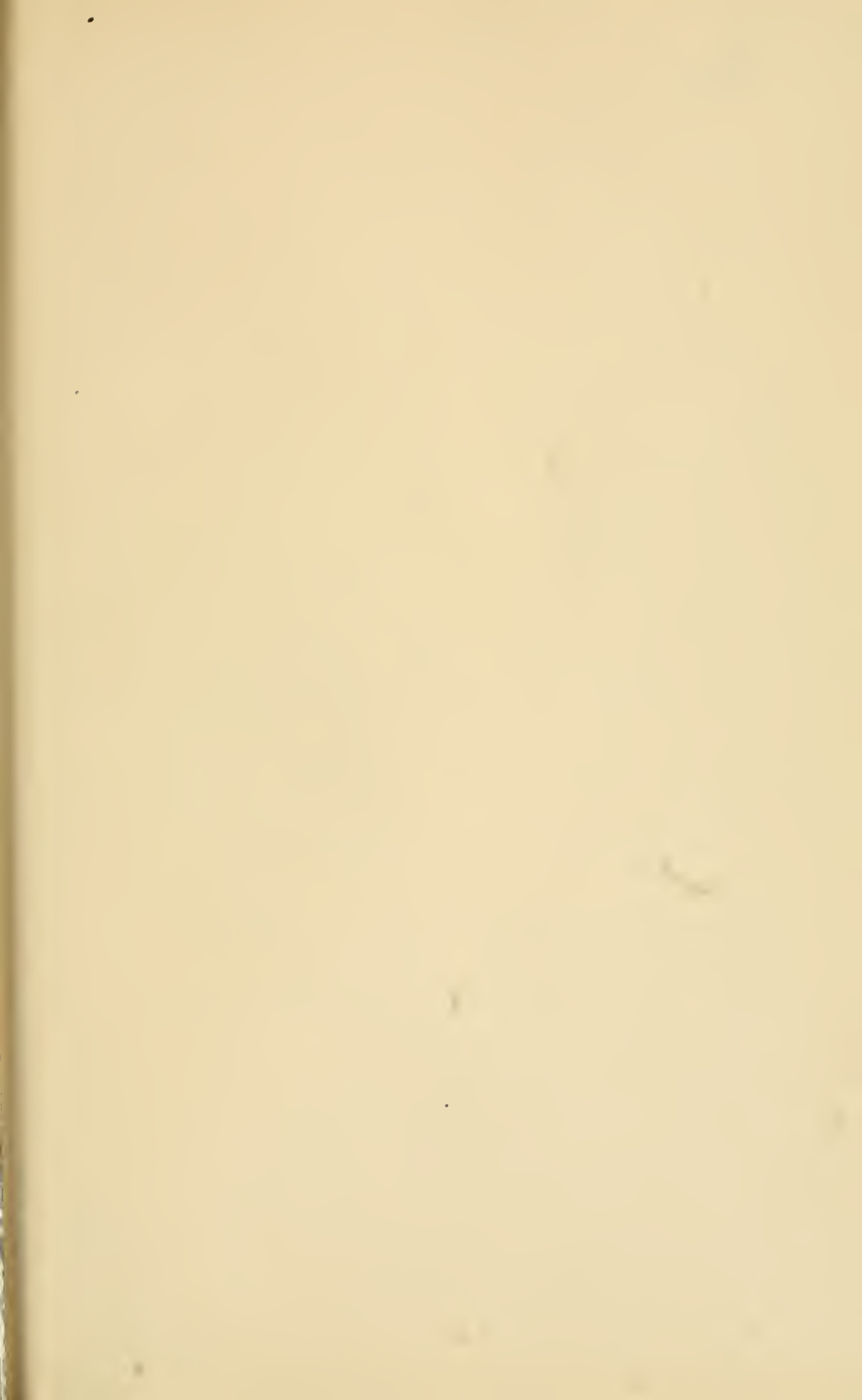
GRAVE OF FRANKLIN, PHILADELPHIA.

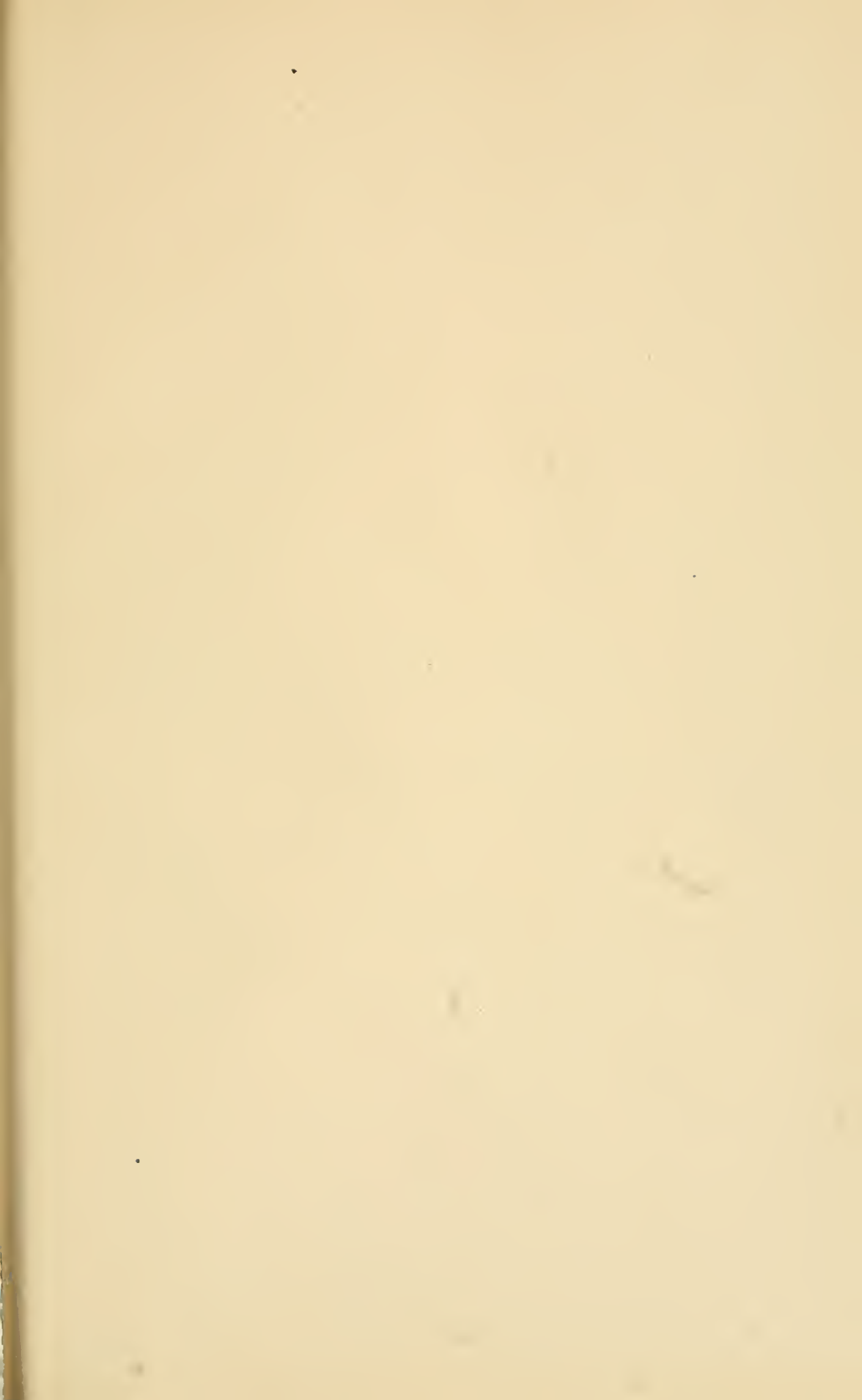


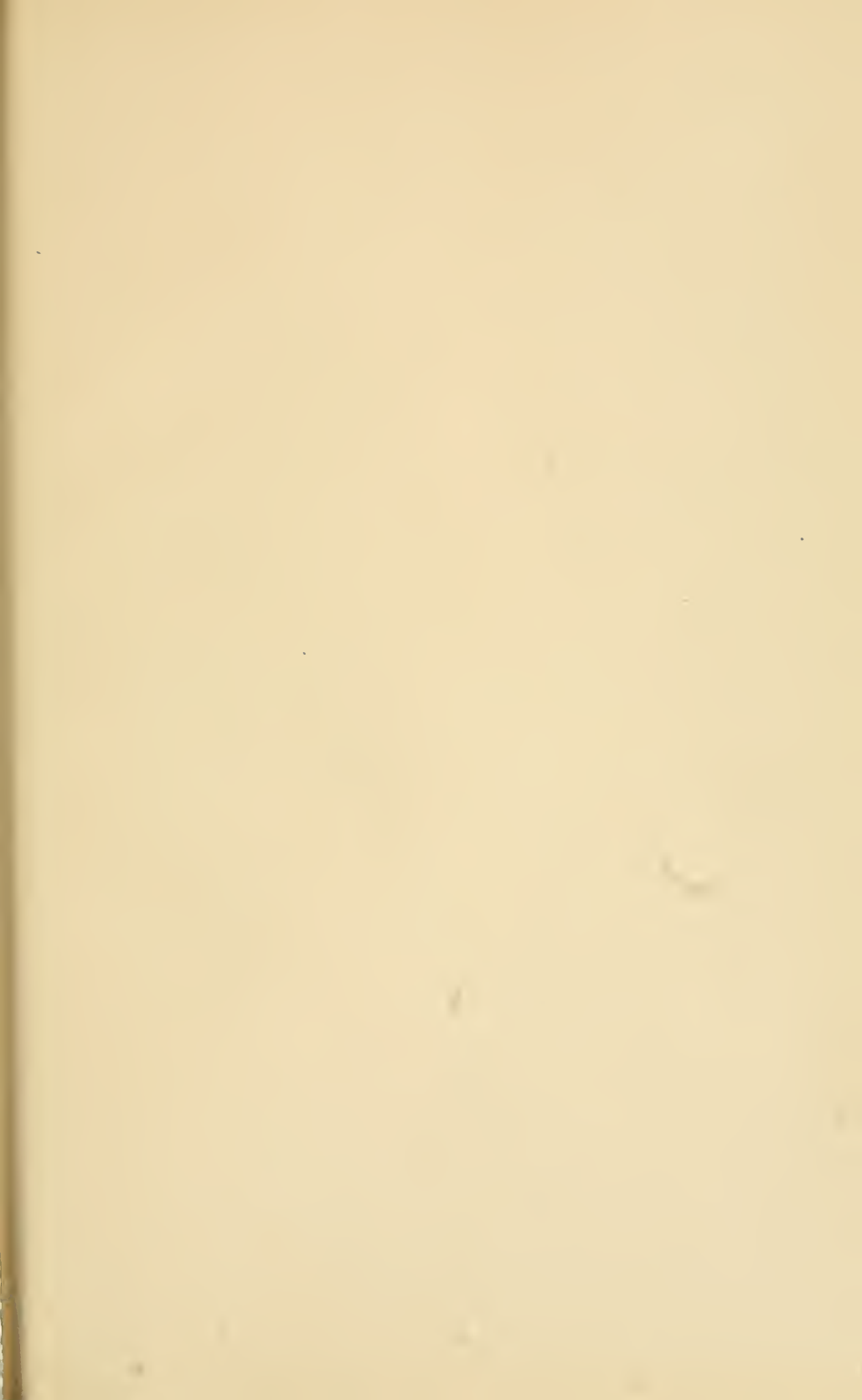




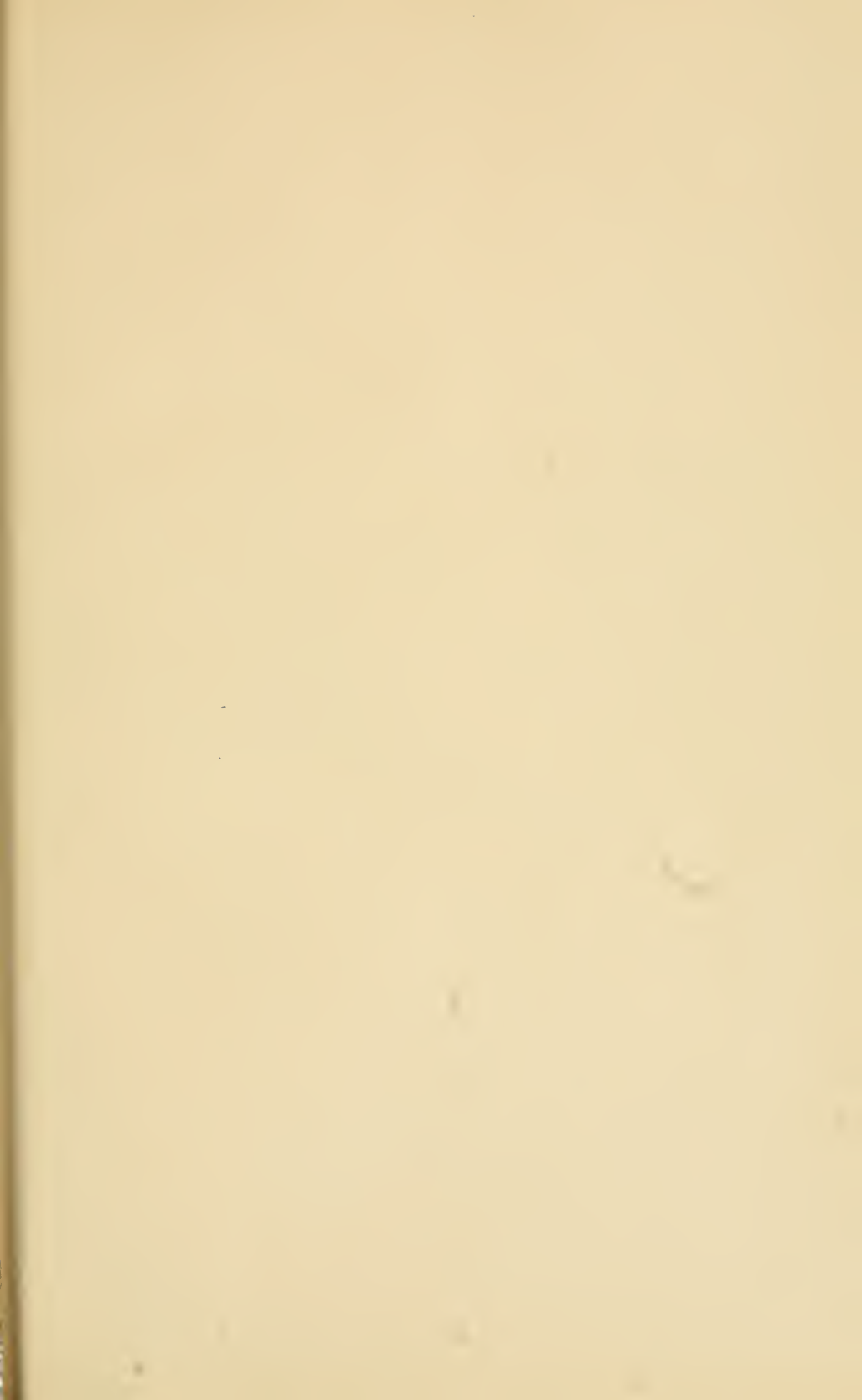






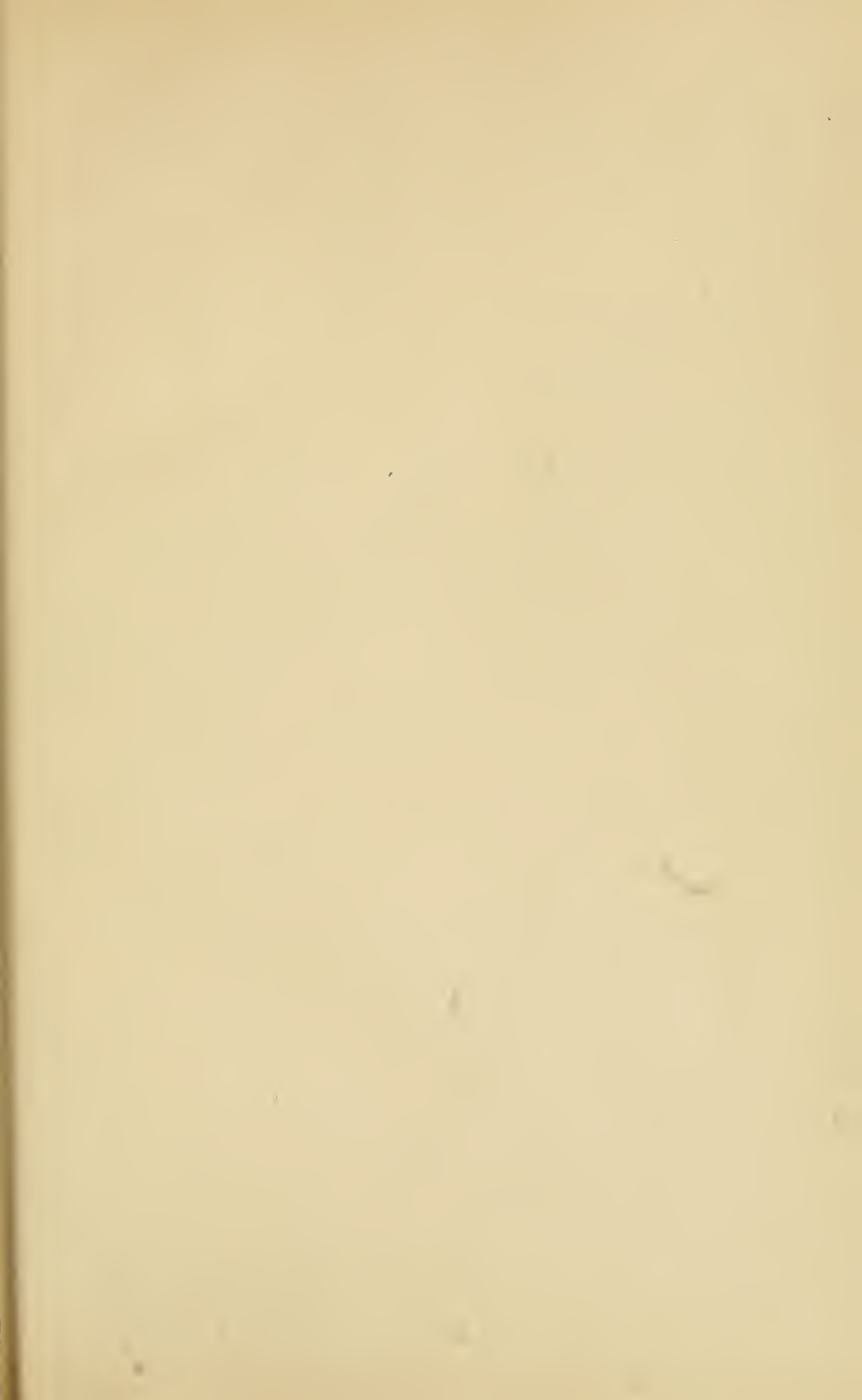












0700915

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 011 838 366 7

